IOWA BIRD LIFE

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IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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First Record of the Tundra Bean-Goose for Iowa

Ben Baldwin

I was visiting my hometown of Lamoni from northern Wisconsin. As always when I'm in town, I spent a day birding with a couple of my lifelong birding buddies around Decatur and Ringgold Counties. It had been a great week, with all three scoters at Little River and several other goodies, including both shrikes and Snow Bunting, so my spirits were high and I was in a good frame of mind for birding.

On the morning of 29 November 2022, while on a quick errand to the lumberyard, I chose a route that would take me past the sewage ponds and Big G Lake on the Graceland University campus. I'd been told there were a couple snow geese on Big G. I thought that they were likely Ross's so I wanted to check them out.

Tundra Bean Goose, Lamoni, Decatur, *29 November 2022. Photograph by Ben Baldwin, Lamoni, IA.*

As I rolled slowly past Big G, I quickly picked out a couple of white geese. Closer observation confirmed my suspicions. Two Ross's Geese kept close company with a small flock of Cackling Geese, skirting the much larger flock of Canadas. Keeping my eye on the waterfowl, I continued a little further down the road. As I passed a small group of 25 Canada Geese that were tucked in a small inlet only 80 yards or so from the road, I noticed a goose that recalled a Greater White-fronted Goose. I could see it just well enough without optics to tell that its bill was dark, not pink as in Greater White-fronted Geese, and it made me pause enough to take a second look. I reached over to the passenger seat, grabbed my camera, and took a few quick photos over my shoulder, out the rear window as I rolled to a stop. Zooming in on the pictures I could see on the back of my camera that I had a bird that was a long way from home. Lacking the white feathers at the bill's base and having a dark bill with a yellowish band across its center, rather than all pink, told me right away that it wasn't the more common Greater White-fronted Goose. My heart was pounding as I looked at the images on the back of my camera. This could be my biggest discovery yet, and my thoughts raced as I initially thought I might have a Pink-footed Goose, an increasingly common vagrant to the east coast from northern Europe.

In my shot I could see bright orange legs trailing in the water. This was not a Pink-footed Goose, but possibly something even rarer. My next thought was Tundra or Taiga Bean-Goose. These two very similar species also visit from

northern Europe, but are much less common in North America, especially inland. I was just barely familiar enough with them to even have their names come to mind.

I took a few minutes to study it with my binoculars, confirming the details I'd noticed on my camera. I had no idea at that moment what an adventure was going to ensue over the next few days, both in the identification of the bird, deciphering Tundra or Taiga Bean-Goose, and the joy and difficulty of tracking it across the many southern Iowa farm ponds.

Having no experience with bean-geese, I texted some pictures to a few Wisconsin birders I knew, as well as the local Lamoni guys in hopes that someone could give some more insight. I suggested Tundra Bean-Goose based on my initial impression of the details, and the others, though as inexperienced with this species as myself, agreed.

Logan Wilson called me, saying he was on the way. I continued to the lumberyard and sped back to meet him to study the goose a little more. We were warned to make a careful note of the difficulty in identifying Tundra versus Taiga Bean-Goose. The two of us studied it for half an hour or so, taking pictures and jotting down some details. We watched anxiously as some of the Canadas took flight, followed soon thereafter by the bean-goose. We watched as it took flight, circled to the south, and disappeared behind a line of trees on the hilltop.

We were crushed watching it leave, but with the local flock of Canadas moving around the area, there was hope it could be relocated. I was advised to post photos and comments to multiple media pages in hopes of getting some input from people who had experience with these two similar species in our quest for a positive ID. With a mega rarity either way and a potential state first record, we couldn't settle for "bean-goose species". I posted photos to several sites and discussed the exciting events with my wife Lisa over lunch. Though not a birder, she gets very excited in my more significant birding adventures and took it upon herself to study the bean-goose dilemma for the remainder of the day. Meanwhile I spent the day trying desperately to relocate the bird.

After eight hours and 180 miles of driving the dusty backroads, scrutinizing every pond, harvested grain field and public water body in a ten-mile radius, I came up defeated. With the diminishing light I headed back to where I was staying to go over my photos and the resources my wife had sent me throughout the day.

I walked in the door and Lisa said, "It's a Tundra Bean-Goose". Over the course of the day, she had gone from "non-birder" to significantly more versed in the details of bean-goose identification than me. We sat down at the computer to study the many resources she had found. She showed me dozens of photos and several articles on the subject. The steeper forehead, bill shape and color, and shorter, stouter neck all pointed in favor of Tundra Bean-Goose. The Taiga Bean-Goose has a more swan-like appearance, with a sloping bill and forehead and a longer, more graceful neck. The Taiga Bean-Goose also generally shows extensive pale in the bill, all in contrast to the photos I'd taken

and the details I'd observed in the field.

I was amazed at Lisa's thoroughness and the extent to which she'd gone to reach this conclusion. I agreed with her ID of Tundra Bean-Goose, but eagerly awaited input from anyone with experience. That evening, I got several comments from birders in Northern Europe with extensive experience with both species on my posts. Their response was "easy Tundra". That put my mind at ease and concluded with an outstanding discovery and quest for a positive ID on an Iowa first state record.

I settled down as best I could for the evening while feeling the suspense of what tomorrow would bring in relocating the Tundra Bean-Goose for other birders to enjoy. Birders from across the country were on their way to the nondescript little town of Lamoni with eager anticipation of seeing this rare bird. I felt some obligation and excitement to help relocate it and pass the joy on to others who shared my keen interest in birds.

The following week would prove to be one of my most memorable birding experiences. This experience showed me the true beauty of birding and how one lost goose can bring hundreds of people together with so much excitement just to enjoy nature for what it is. Seeing people of all ages and from every corner of society share my same excitement for this bird and the lifestyle of serious birding, brought my rare social self out. The days were busy calling, texting, and emailing people who were eager to track it down.

Stopping on the road to give people directions, and setting scopes up for the elderly when the goose was particularly difficult to pick out, gave me an opportunity to connect with people through this hobby. The entire birding community across the country came together in cooperation to get as many people as possible on this straggler. A simple but meaningful phrase from an older gentleman came back to me from years ago – "It sure is a good hobby".

The Tundra Bean-Goose remained in the area for several weeks, last recorded on 17 December 2022. Many birders from states as far away as Pennsylvania and Tennessee got the opportunity to see it over this time. It was difficult to track, often moving several times to different ponds in the area throughout a single day. The unpredictable behavior kept the chase suspenseful, no one ever knowing if they'd see it. I spent a week tracking it down and keeping tabs on it for the many excited birders who continued to come as the sightings were updated each day. We had a tentative sighting of it in Missouri and it even made an appearance on the Lamoni Christmas Bird Count. I doubt I'll ever come across another species of this magnitude but I will always be looking. As the saying goes, "Bird every bird".

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An Unconfirmed Egg Set of the Great Gray Owl from Iowa

Spencer G. Sealy [1] *and Lloyd F. Kiff* [2]

The Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) has not been recorded breeding in Iowa; hence, we were surprised when one of us (SGS) uncovered a set of two eggs of this species allegedly taken in Iowa in 1887, catalogued in a museum in Switzerland. This record was apparently overlooked, or ignored, by early ornithologists and by Collins (1980), who compiled a comprehensive list of the early breeding records of the Great Gray Owl in North America. This egg set came to light while conducting research into the disposition of the egg collection assembled by oologist Archibald D. Henderson, who homesteaded near Belvedere, Alberta in the early decades of the 1900s. Henderson sold the bulk of his collection in 1963 to Werner Haller, a private egg collector in Switzerland (Houston and Bechard 1990, Sealy 2022). Haller's egg collection, which by then included most of Henderson's egg sets, was eventually sold in two parts, one to the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève (MHNG) and the other to the Naturhistorisches Museum Bern (NMBE).

Although Great Gray Owls nested irregularly in the Belvedere region (Henderson 1915, 1923), egg sets of this species were numerous enough for Henderson to trade with other oologists for sets that he wanted for his collection. We assumed that some of Henderson's Great Gray Owl egg sets would have been among those sold to Haller and catalogued in the Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève, but there are none. Curator Laurent Valloton suggested that we contact Manuel Schweizer at the NNBE, which holds the rest of Haller's collection. Two egg sets of the Great Gray Owl are registered in that collection, part of the original Haller collection, but neither was collected by Henderson. One set was taken in Finland on 25 May 1912, whereas the other (NMBE 1040945) was allegedly taken in Iowa on 18 April 1887 (Figure 1). Schweizer (pers. comm., 21 November 2022) indicated that the egg set collected in Iowa was purchased by Paul Henrici from A. Vaucher of Geneva, who in turn sold this and other egg sets to Haller in 1952 (Lüps *et al.* 2005).

Except for the location – "Iowa. U.S.A.", which accompanied the registration of NMBE 1040945 (Figure 1) – nothing ties this egg set to a collector, in Iowa or elsewhere in North America.

Figure 1. *Egg set of the Great Gray Owl (NMBE 1040945) allegedly collected in Iowa, on 18 April 1887. Courtesy of Naturhistorisches Museum Bern.*

Correspondence between Vaucher and Henrici during the sale of this and other egg sets apparently did not survive, but a copy of the belated agreement signed during the sale of Henrici's collection to Haller, dated 15 February 1957, is among the Haller papers archived in the MHNG (Valloton, pers. comm., 29 August 2022). Neither Henrici nor Vaucher, however, appear on a list of North American egg collectors compiled by one of us (LFK).

Dimensions of the Great Gray Owl eggs in set NMBE 1040945 are 54.1 x 41.5 mm and 52.1 x 41.3 mm, which fall within the extremes of 21 eggs from six clutches measured by SGS in Manitoba: 56.1 x 42.9, 50.4 x 41.9, and 52.9 x 41.5 mm (Collins 1980:35). The date of collection of the "Iowa" egg set, 18 April 1887, is consistent with egg dates recorded in Manitoba and Minnesota (Collins 1980:143-141).

In a compendium of European egg collections, Hartert (1929) stated that Henrici formed a general egg collection, mostly of clutches but not large series. He collected egg sets himself in several countries, but not in the United States. Including the Great Gray Owl egg set from Iowa, Henrici amassed a collection of 501 sets from North America, all purchased from collectors and dealers (Schweizer, pers. comm. 21 June 2023). Among those egg sets was one from the Eastern Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) (NMBE 1040902), also allegedly collected in Iowa, on 2 March 1893.

R. Magoon Barnes, long-time editor of *The Oologist*, was sort of a clearinghouse on the location of rare egg sets during this period in oological history, and it would be surprising that would not know of a valid set of Great Gray Owl eggs collected in Iowa. Indeed, Barnes (1914:12) gleefully announced that he had recently visited Francis B. Eastman at his home in Upstate New York and that he had obtained his egg collection, which included "the only set of really authentic Great Gray Owl's eggs that has ever fallen under our notice." Eastman collected this set in Alaska early in the 1900s while heading an Army patrol in early spring. Barnes further noted (p. 12) that this "set now rests in our collection, and is among our most treasured specimens." Barnes's memory, however, was not perfect. Responding to Barnes's glee about his set of Great Gray Owl eggs, J. Parker Norris, Jr., of Philadelphia, who owned the most extensive egg collection in America at the time, pointed out that he possessed a set of Great Gray Owl eggs and that Barnes had recently examined it during the same trip on which the two men had visited earlier (Norris 1914).

In conclusion, this nesting record of the Great Gray Owl in Iowa cannot be confirmed; in fact, we did not uncover any evidence that Great Gray Owls have occurred in Iowa during the breeding season. Also, no nests or specimens of adults of this species were recorded in North America in 1887 (Collins 1980). During movements of Great Gray Owls beyond their normal range, in search of food, some individuals have reached as far south as the northern plains of the United States, and some remained to breed (Duncan 1992). Early accounts of the birds of Iowa referred to observations and to at least three individuals shot (but apparently not preserved) and one bird held in captivity (Anderson 1907, DuMont 1933), but none was reported in winter 1886-1887.

The earliest major movement in which individuals were reported in Iowa was 1890-1891 (Dinsmore et al. 1984), three years after the record under consideration here was made.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Laurent Valloton (Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève) for providing information on Archibald D. Henderson's egg sets in his care and copies of correspondence related to the purchase of Werner Haller's and Henderson's egg collections. Manuel Schweizer (Naturhistorisches Museum Bern) responded to several requests for information and measured eggs and photographed the Great Gray Owl egg set allegedly taken in Iowa.

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Field Reports—Fall 2022

Brandon Caswell and Dean Hester

Brandon Caswell (left), Dean Hester (right)

WEATHER

North America had its warmest August and September on record in 2022. October was the 6th warmest on record. While November was the 5th hottest on record for North America, the contiguous US was well below average.

Nationally, August was the 8th warmest in the 128-year US record and in the wettest third of the historical record. September was the 5th warmest on record and 10th driest on record. October ranked in the warmest third of the record and was also in the driest third of the record. November ranked in the middle third of the historical record for both temperature and precipitation (NOAA Data 2022).

In Iowa, temperatures in August averaged 72.0 °F, while total precipitation was 3.37 inches. These values were 1.0 °F above normal and 0.76 inch below normal, respectively. The average statewide temperature was 83.1 °F with a maximum high of 102 °F on 2 August in Sioux City *Woodbury*. The maximum low was 47 °F on 10 Aug in Anamosa *Jones*. The southwestern three-quarters of the state was unseasonably dry; south-central Iowa was driest, with deficits over three inches of rain below normal. Northeastern Iowa was the only area that reported conditions wetter than average. Center Junction *Jones* recorded 9.06 inches of precipitation, whereas Lock and Dam 19 in *Lee* recorded the least with 0.25 inch.

September temperatures averaged 65.1 °F, while precipitation totaled 1.84 inches. These values were 1.4 °F above normal and 1.64 inches below normal, respectively. Temperatures were warmer than average with the warmest being in the northwestern part of the state. North-central and eastern Iowa had more normal temperatures. The maximum high was 102 °F on 20 Sep in Little Sioux *Harrison*, while the maximum low was 26 °F on 28 Sep in Vinton *Benton*. Northwestern and northeastern Iowa had the driest conditions, with departures three inches from normal. Only southeastern Iowa observed wetter than normal conditions. Lucas *Lucas* recorded the most rain with 6.79 inches, while Sheldon *O'Brien* recorded the least with 0.22 inches.

October average temperatures were slightly below normal at 50.4 °F, while precipitation averaged 0.89 inch or 1.80 inches below normal. It was the 15th driest October in 150 years of statewide weather data collection. While most of the state saw near normal temperatures, isolated areas of eastern Iowa experienced some colder than average temperatures. The maximum high temperature was 88 °F 23 October in Oskaloosa *Mahaska*. The maximum low

temperature was 7 °F on 18 October in Spencer *Clay*. Iowa's western half experienced the driest conditions even though rain was widespread over the month. Deficits of 2.50 inches were recorded at some western locations. The lowest precipitation total was 0.06 inch in Estherville *Emmet* and the highest total was 2.49 inches in Keokuk *Lee*.

Average temperatures in November were slightly above normal at 37.0 °F, while precipitation was also slightly above normal at 1.95 inches. Most of the state saw normal temperatures, however, southwestern Iowa saw slightly cooler temperatures. Eastern Iowa saw warmer temperatures. The maximum temperature was 80 °F on 2 November in both Lamoni *Decatur* and Little Sioux *Harrison*. The maximum low temperature was 2 °F on 30 November in Spencer *Clay*. Above average precipitation amounts for the month were only seen during the meteorological fall. The southeastern half of the state reported totals one to two inches above normal (Glisan 2022).

HABITAT and GENERAL TRENDS

Per the gallinaceous birds, Ring-necked Pheasant showed no apparent change in numbers from 2021, with increases in east central and southeast regions. Northern Bobwhite showed large increases across all of southernmost Iowa. Gray Partridge numbers remained the same as in 2021 (Bogenschutz and Uhlig 2022).

Mid-September continues to be a period of intense raptor movement through Iowa. High counts at Hitchcock Hawk Watch in Pottawattamie County for Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk and American Kestrel were on 22 September. Grammer Grove Hawk Watch in Marshall County had a higher count for Broad-winged Hawk the previous day, 21 September.

Two years after the 2020 fall Evening Grosbeak irruption, another irruption occurred in Iowa. This wave came through from 30 October to 4 November. One interesting thing was that, while many showed up at feeders, some of the sightings were at fruited trees. Numbers ranged from one to over a dozen.

All three merganser species had high counts away from the Mississippi River, a trend which is interesting and reflects on the importance of Iowa's largest reservoirs as staging areas for waterfowl species.

Limpkin irrupted outside the far southeastern corner of the US, culminating in 2022 with nine first-state records, including Iowa. There were reports from 23 states in total. Iowa saw four different Limpkin, three of which occurred in the fall. Interestingly, the last fall record continued at its favored location into December. It eventually perished in winter conditions and was collected by Iowa State University.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

August: Iowa's second state record for Limpkin continued into August at Little Storm Lake *Buena Vista*. Another Limpkin was at Green Island WMA *Jackson*. On the same day mid-month, a Rufous Hummingbird was at Spirit Lake *Dickinson* and a Mottled Duck was at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk*. A King

Rail was at Red Rock Reservoir *Marion*. Iowa's 5th record of Townsend's Warbler was in Cedar Rapids.

September: On the heels of the 5th record, Iowa's 6th record of Townsend's Warbler was found in early September at Saylorville Reservoir. A Rufous Hummingbird was in Ames. A Swallow-tailed Kite was found in Earlham *Madison*. A Rock Wren was at Jester Park *Polk*.

October: Ferruginous Hawks were in both rural Pocahontas and Cerro Gordo counties. A Varied Thrush found in Carroll. Evening Grosbeaks started to irrupt in late October with records in Muscatine County and in Ames. Another Limpkin settled down at a private lake near Bondurant *Polk*, continuing into the winter season.

November: The Evening Grosbeak irruption continued early this month with records in Ames (2), Colfax *Jasper*, rural Winneshiek County, Altoona *Polk*, Hills *Johnson,* and Algona *Kossuth*. Iowa's second record for Common Ground Dove was in Altoona. A late-month Rock Wren was in Grimes *Polk*. On the second to last day of the fall season, Iowa's first record of Tundra Bean-Goose was found in Lamoni, which continued into the winter season.

COMMENTS

We would like to thank everyone who submitted data for fall 2022. Data not included in this report are still vital in helping paint the picture of Iowa's avian life. There were 180 cited contributors in this report, which is easily the largest number ever for an *Iowa Bird Life* issue. Each year, the number of contributors grows. There were 170,478 data entries from either the IOU website or eBird, with the vast majority coming from the latter. This does not include data also used from the Illinois Natural History Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Surveys, Hitchcock Hawk Watch and Grammer Grove Hawk Watch. We are always indebted to Ann Johnson for her help with making sure the final data file is correctly assembled. She has also spent numerous hours on other technical work on the IOU's web portal that has made the seasonal reporting process much more streamlined.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS – Casual or Accidental species. * – documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** – adult, **AHHP** – Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **BBS** – breeding bird survey, **BCA** – bird conservation area, **CBC** – Christmas bird count, **CP** – county park, **Croton** – Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest, **Donnellson** – Donnellson Unit, Shimek State Forest, **ELC** – environmental learning corridor, **ERVP** – East River Valley Park, **Farmington** – Farmington Unit, Shimek State Forest, **GGHW** – Grammer Grove hawk watch, **HHW** – Hitchcock hawk watch, **HP** – heritage park, **imm** – immature, **INHS** – Illinois Natural History Survey, **juv** – juvenile, **L** – lake, **L&D** – lock and dam, **Lick Creek** – Lick Creek Unit, Stephens State Forest, **Lucas** – Lucas Unit, Stephens State Forest, **M** – marsh, **m.ob.** – many observers, **NC** – nature center, **NM** – national monument, **NW&FR** – national wildlife and fish refuge , **NWR** –

national wildlife refuge, **P** – park, **ph** – photo, **Pl** – plumage, **R** – river, **RA** – recreation area, **Res** – reservoir, **S Pre** – state preserve, **SF** – state forest, **Sl** – slough, **SL** – sewage lagoons, **SP** – state park, **SRA** – state recreation area, **Thousand Acre** – Thousand Acre Unit, Stephens State Forest, **Tr** – trail, **Upper Miss NWR** – Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge, **USFWS** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **USNWR** – Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, **W** – wetland, **WA** – wildlife area, **Whitebreast** – Whitebreast Unit, Stephens State Forest, **WPA** – waterfowl production area, **yg** – young.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: An adult pair with up to 19 ducklings carried over from summer into fall in Prairie City *Jasper* until 10 Aug (m.ob., WO-ph). The last observation was a single adult at the same location 14 Aug (MiS). A single adult was in West Branch *Cedar* 6-8 Aug (EIW, SMF). A single was in Pella *Marion* 19 Aug (CoUi). An adult female with 6 yg and a lone older juv 2 Sep through 4 Oct in Jewell *Hamilton* (SJD-ph).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Jewell Iowa, Hamilton, *5 September 2022. Photograph by Stephen Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Snow Goose: The first significant count was 120 at Slip Bluff CP *Decatur* 20 Nov (LW). There were 140 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 23 Nov (AB). The largest migrational pulse occurred 24 Nov with 1740 headed due south around sunrise at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BCC). The last large count was 800 at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* 26 Nov (Bob Meier).

Ross's Goose: The first was a single at Palisades P *Winneshiek* 1 Oct (BVe). The high was 5 at Stolley Gravel Pit P *Clay* 28 Nov (DSi).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The first significant count was 82 near Lamoni *Decatur* 8 Oct (LW). There were 14 reports of 100-300 reported through the rest of October and November. The two highest counts were 1200 and 1500 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 27 Oct and 7 Nov, respectively (INHS).

TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE: Iowa's first record was found at Big G L, Graceland University in Lamoni *Decatur* 29 Nov (*BAB-ph, *POR-ph, *GDW-ph, *MHB-ph, *TMH, *MaH-ph, *KVS-ph, *DiBr-ph, *JB-ph, *EKe-ph, *CRE, *JTo-ph, *DH-ph, m.ob.). The goose was spotted intermittently in the Lamoni area until mid-December.

Cackling Goose: First was a single at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* 16 Oct (DGE). The first significant count was 38 at Spirit L *Dickinson* 7 Nov (MHB). High was 56 at Folsom L *Mills* 30 Nov (POR).

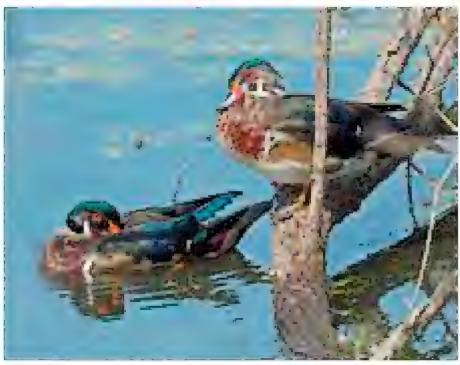
Canada Goose: Counts of 1000 or more occurred between 19 Oct (n=2 in Oct) and 30 Nov (n=24 in Nov) (INHS). The high was 5000 at

Lewis and Clark SP *Monona* 26 Nov (ThD, PAP).

Mute Swan: All: up to 4 at L&D 14 *Scott* 12 Aug to 16 Nov (m.ob.), a single at L Keomah SP *Mahaska* 27 Aug to 21 Oct (DCJ), a single at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* 9 Oct (JF), a single at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 2 Nov (TM), a single at Storm L *Buena Vista* 21-27 Nov (DSi)

Trumpeter Swan: The first sizable count was 136 at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* 18 Nov (KP). The high was 185 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 20 Nov (DAS).

Tundra Swan: The high was 2600 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 14 Nov (BR). Away from the Mississippi, All: 5 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 15 Nov (KH, Nolan Walker), one at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* 19 Nov (RJT) and 2 at the same location 21 Nov (KP), one at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 23 Nov (RAS), one at Folsom Lake WMA *Mills* 30 Nov (POR)



Wood Duck, Great Lakes Spine Trail, Dickinson, *18 September 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

Wood Duck: Two late-season high counts were 100 north of *Burlington* Des Moines 20 Oct (BWi) and 100 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 25 Nov (EHo, IHo).

Blue-winged Teal: The high was 2830 at Pool 19 *Lee* 8 Sep (INHS). Away from the Mississippi, 700 were at Dewey's Pasture WMA *Clay* 30 Aug (NaWi). There were 500 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21 Sep (AB, RJT). There were 390 at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* 30 Sep (CW).

Northern Shoveler: The first report was 8 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Aug (AYa, EmY). The high was 2300 at Pool 19 *Lee* 7 Nov (INHS).

Gadwall: An early sighting was a single at South Twin L *Calhoun* 8 Aug (SSP). The high was 6475 at Pool 19 *Lee* 7 Nov (INHS). Away from the Mississippi, there were 2200 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Nov (AB), 950 at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* 5 Nov (KP) and 1470 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 6 Nov (JG).

American Wigeon: The first was a single at Wapello Bottom WMA *Louisa* 5 Sep (JMc, MMa). There were 280 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 2 Nov (BR). The high was 1150 at Pool 19 *Lee* 7 Nov (INHS).

Mallard: The high was 22,000 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 22 Nov (INHS). There were also 18,000 at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 22 Nov (INHS). Away from the Mississippi, the most was 3400 at Polk City WA *Polk* 25 Nov (AB).

American Black Duck: The first was a single at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 23 Sep (TM). The next report was a single in North Liberty *Johnson* 27 Oct (MHB). The high was 200 at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 14 Nov (INHS).

MOTTLED DUCK: A single was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 15-20 Aug (*AB-ph).

Northern Pintail: The first was a single at Little Storm L *Buena Vista*

6 Aug (JDJ). The high was 6555 at Pool 19 *Lee* 7 Nov (INHS). Away from the Mississippi, the most was 280 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Nov (AB).

Green-winged Teal, Swan Lake SP, Carroll, 8 November 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.

Green-winged Teal: The first were 2 at Big Woods L *Black Hawk* 18 Aug (KeB). The high was 12,750 at Pool 19 *Lee* 7 Nov (IHNS).

Canvasback: The first were 2 at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* 9 Aug (CW-ph). The high was roughly 30,000 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 2 Nov (BR). There were 28,500 at Pool 19 *Lee* 22 Nov (INHS).

Redhead: The first were 3 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Oct (HL, EE). The high was 1900 at Pool 19 *Lee* 22 Nov (INHS). Away from the Mississippi, the most was 280 at Hales Slough WMA *Dickinson* 8 Nov (MHB).

Ring-necked Duck: The first were 2 at Hendrickson Marsh WMA *Marshall* 18 Sep (BR). The high was 8000 at Pool 19 *Lee* 14 Nov (INHS).

Greater Scaup: Reported in six counties. The first was 3 at L Colchester *Warren* 5 Nov (JG). The high was 4 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 13 Nov (AB).

Lesser Scaup: The first was a drake continuing from the summer at Cedar L *Linn* 11 Aug (BT, JTo). Away from the Mississippi, the most was 5700 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Nov (AB). The high was 35,500 at Pool 19 *Lee* 22 Nov (INHS).

Surf Scoter: All: single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Oct (JB), 2 at Pleasant Creek SRA *Linn* 25 Oct (JF, m.ob.), up to 3 at Storm L *Buena Vista* 27 Oct to 4 Oct (DSi), up to 6 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 7-13 Nov (RGo, BVL, CPL), 2 at Lindsay P *Scott* 25 Nov and continued into the winter, 3 at Little River L *Decatur* 25-26 Nov (BAB), 2 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Nov (AB)

White-winged Scoter: All: single at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Oct (GoBr), single at Storm L *Buena Vista* 5 Nov (DSi), 2 at L Colchester *Warren* 5 Nov (JG), up to 2 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 12-13 Nov (RGo, CPL), single at Red Rock Res *Marion* 13 Nov (EKe), single at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* 17 Nov (DGE), 3 at Little River L *Decatur* 24-26 Nov (LW, BAB)

Black Scoter: All: up to 4 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Oct to 1 Nov (AB, RJT, m.ob.), single at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Oct (GoBr), 2 at Spirit L *Dickinson* 1-2 Nov (ET), single at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* 5 Nov (JMc), single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Nov (AB, JG, RJT), 3 at Storm L *Buena Vista* 7-9 Nov (DSi), up to 2 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 8-13 Nov (BVL, RGo, CPL), single at L&D 12 *Jackson* 13 Nov (TM), single at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 22 Nov (DAS), single at Little River L *Decatur* 25 Nov (BAB), single at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* 26 Nov (JG)

Long-tailed Duck: All: 3rd earliest sighting of a single at Coralville Res *Johnson* 19 Oct (JF, m.ob.), single at Browns L/IPS WMA *Woodbury* 7 Nov (MaH), single at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* 12 Nov (RAS), single at Cedar L *Linn* 12 Nov (BT, JTo), single at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 18 Nov (PaP), 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 20 Nov (JG), single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24-25 Nov (BCC, RJT, AB, KY), single in North Liberty *Johnson* 26 Nov (JKe, m.ob.)

Bufflehead: The first was a single at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* 12 Oct (CW). The high was 1055 at Pool 19 *Lee* 22 Nov (INHS).

Common Goldeneye: The first was a single at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 28 Oct (DAS). The high was 5000 at Pool 19 *Lee* 22 Nov (INHS). Away from the Mississippi, there most was 210 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28 Nov (SSP).

Hooded Merganser: The peak of migration was 254 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 23 Nov (AB).

Common Merganser: The first was a single at Red Rock Res *Marion* 5 Sep (RMcP). The first large pulse of migration was 465 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20 Nov (AB). The high was 1200 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28 Nov (BE).

Red-breasted Merganser: The first were two at A.Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* 19 Oct (KJAB). The high was 97 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 13 Nov (CPL). There were 90 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 15 Nov (RLC).

Ruddy Duck: Away from the Mississippi, the most was 560 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Nov (AB). There were 500 at Coralville Res *Johnson* 5 Nov (JMc). The high was 11,400 at Pool 19 *Lee* 22 Nov (INHS).

Northern Bobwhite: The DNR roadside surveys indicated a substantial increase in populations in the southern portion of Iowa, up from .4 per route to .81, more than doubling on average. This was primarily due to a very mild winter in 2021-2022.

Wild Turkey: Reported in 60 counties with a high of 28 on 15 Oct at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (MHe).

Ruffed Grouse: All: a single on 27 Aug at Bass Creek *Fayette* (JoSc), a single reported 28-29 Oct at Golden Ridge Rd *Allamakee* (CVL)

Gray Partridge: The high was 16 on 10 Aug near Spencer *Clay* (ET). Fourteen were reported on 5 Sep at Remesen *Plymouth* (AmCr).

Ring-necked Pheasant: The 2022 Iowa August Roadside Survey index of 19.6 birds/route was nearly unchanged from 2021. The southeast portion of the state saw the largest gains in population.

Pied-billed Grebe: High of 185 on 17 Oct at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* (CW). The peak of migration occurred in early November (eBird m.ob.).

Horned Grebe: The high was on 29 was on 1 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB). Last on 19 Nov at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Red-necked Grebe: Mostly singles reported, but a pair were seen on 26 Oct at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS, TM). Another pair was reported on 5 Nov at Saylorville *Polk* (JG, RJT). A single 5 November at L Panorama *Guthrie* (SJD).

Common Nighthawk, Ames, Story, *7 August 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Eared Grebe: Saylorville Res was responsible for the bulk of Eared Grebe sightings with 22 of 25 reports. The high was 7 on 24 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT).

Western Grebe: Found in 8 counties. All: the first was a single on 11 Sep at Quarry Springs P *Jasper* (KDy), a single from 17 Sep to 2 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG, m.ob.), a single on 26 Sep at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi), up to two 21 Oct to 7 Nov (JG, m.ob.), a single 2 Nov at Temple P *Dickinson* (ET), a single 18 Nov at L Macbride SP *Johnson* that lingered a few days into December (JF, m.ob.), a single 20-27 Nov at Big Creek SP *Polk* (AB, m.ob.), a single 21 Nov at L&D 13 *Clinton* (JF), a single 24 Nov at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (JG), a single 25 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG)

COMMON GROUND DOVE: Iowa's 2nd record was in Altoona *Polk* 7 Nov into the early winter season. The bird was first seen briefly and suspected on the property. It was later confirmed by trail cam photos (*UDG-ph).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The last was a single 9 Oct at ERVP *Story* (SSP).

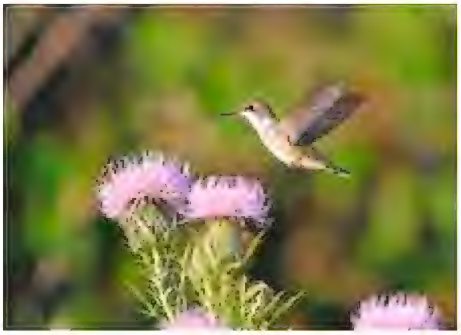
Black-billed Cuckoo: A pair was reported 5 Sep at Iowa River Landing Wetland P *Johnson* (ReBe). The last was a single 12 Sep at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (SMF).

Common Nighthawk: High of 200 reported on 19 Sep at Graceland Park Cemetery *Woodbury* (GLV). Last was a single on 21 Oct at Kuehn Conservation Area *Dallas* (KP).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: All: one on 4 Aug at Big Mill Creek WLA *Jackson* (ScS), one on 21 Sep at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (JoSt), one on 18 Sep at Stone SP *Woodbury* (JuRe)

Chimney Swift: One hundred on 24 Aug at Riverside Tr *Black Hawk* (AlMu), and 100 on 4 Oct in Davenport *Scott* (MiMi). The last was 36 on 15 Oct in West Des Moines *Polk* (RJT).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: High of 27 on 11 Sep at Big Wall Lake WMA *Wright* (SSP). Last was a single reported 16 Oct in Brandon *Buchanan* (WV).



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, *22 August 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA..*

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Single male from 15-17 Aug at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* (*ET-ph). Single male on 9 Sep in Ames *Story* (*JoGr).

KING RAIL: Single report of one bird on 13-21 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*Eke-ph).

Virginia Rail: Scattered reports from 9 counties. High of 3 on 11 Sep at Big Wall Lake WMA *Wright* (SSP). Last on 6 Oct at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (DGE).

Sora: Sixty estimated calling on 11 Sep at Big Wall Lake WMA *Wright* (SSP). Last a single on 3 Nov at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi).

Common Gallinule: Twelve were seen on 18 Sep at Bulger's Hollow *Clinton* (EEO). The last a single on 17 Oct at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* (CW).

American Coot: Many counts over 1000, with the high of 7000 on 24 Sep at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KJM).

Yellow Rail: A single report of this elusive species was on 19 Sep at Davis W *Monona* (JC).

LIMPKIN: All: a single continued from 16 Jul to 17 Aug at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (*DSi-ph, *ET-ph, *CW-ph, *POR-ph, *GDW-ph, *AB-ph, *DTM-ph, m.ob.), single on 12 Aug at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (*CaSe-ph), single on 20 Oct through all of Nov at Woodland L *Polk* (*MiLe-ph, *AB-ph, *CW-ph, *POR-ph, *TH-ph, m.ob.), single on 5 Nov in Montrose *Lee* (*Mark Clemens-ph)

Sandhill Crane: High of 128 on 13 Nov at New Albin *Allamakee* (BR).

Black-necked Stilt: Single record of a pair on 9 Sep at Rapp P *Page* (AB).

American Avocet: Reported in 13 counties. Several large counts, with a high of 92 on 30 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, GoBr) and 54 on 2 Nov at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa*, (JF). Last reported 6 Nov at Amanda Lily Pond *Iowa* (MWe).

Black-bellied Plover: Majority of reports at Saylorville Res *Polk* and Hawkeye WMA *Johnson*. High of 20 on 7 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JF). Last was a single on 4 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB).

American Golden-Plover: High of 380 on 8 Oct at South Twin L *Calhoun* (BWi). Last were 17 on 30 Oct at South Twin L *Calhoun* (MWe).

Killdeer: Reported in 92 counties. High was 317 on 14 Aug at Maskunky M *Mahaska* (DCJ).

Semipalmated Plover, Big Creek Lake swimming beach, Polk, *14 September 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Semipalmated Plover: Fifty reported 21 Aug at Red Rock Res *Polk* (Eke). Last was a single juvenile 1 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Piping Plover: Three records, up from one in 2021. One on 5-8 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, SJD). One on 6 Aug at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi). Last was a single on 30 Aug at Choquette Pond *Woodbury* (MaH).

Upland Sandpiper: Reported in 14 counties. High of 14 on 10 Aug near Spencer *Clay* (ET). Last was a single on 3 Sep near Hospers *Sioux* (JDJ).

Whimbrel: No reports

Hudsonian Godwit: All: high of 6 on 7 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JF), one from 12-15 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (BCC, PMo, EIW)

Marbled Godwit: Singles only this fall with one bird on 8 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (m.ob.), one 31 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), one from 1-6 Sep at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (m.ob.) and latest on 19 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Ruddy Turnstone: Up from only *Polk* in 2021 to 5 counties in 2022. High of 3 on 7 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SSP).

Stilt Sandpiper: Reported from 20 counties. High of 46 on 25 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Additional counts of 20+ birds at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (m.ob.) and South Twin L *Calhoun* (m.ob.).

Sanderling: High of 11 on 17 Sep at South Twin L *Calhoun* (DSi). Last sighting a single on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TJD).

Dunlin: High of 63 on 23 Sep at A. Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* (TM). Last birds were 19 on 11 Nov at White Breast Creek *Marion* (Eke) and one at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (HL).

Baird's Sandpiper: Reported in 12 counties. Twenty reported on 29 Sep at Nobles Lake WMA *Harrison* (NP). The last was a single on 15 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Least Sandpiper: High of 180 on 16 Aug at South Twin L *Calhoun* (HL, EE). Last on Nov 15 at Saylorville *Polk* (SJD, KH).

White-rumped Sandpiper: One from 24-26 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (m.ob.). One adult 24 Aug to 8 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). One 11 Sep at South Twin L *Calhoun* (CDB, EE, and HL).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: High of 6 on 2 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JKe). Last on 22 Oct at Bank Swallow Bend WA *Warren* (JG).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Reported in 42 counties. High of ~1000 on 14 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe). Common through the end of October. Last on 9 Nov at Bank Swallow Bend WA *Warren* (AMJ).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: High of 200 on 21 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe). Last on 30 Oct at L Macbride *Johnson* (JMc).

Western Sandpiper: One adult 5 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). Single juvenile 12 Aug (BCC) and single adult 13-15 Aug (Nick Schleissmann, m.ob.), both at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson*. Single adult 25 and 27 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). One basic adult 7 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD-ph).

Baird's Sandpiper, South Twin Lake, Calhoun, *20 August 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Short-billed Dowitcher: Sixteen on 23 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JKe). Last was 3 on 9 Sep at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi).

Long-billed Dowitcher: High was 30 on 2 Nov at Hawkeye WMA

Johnson (DH). Ten on 8 Nov at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (Linda Quinn). Last a juvenile through 10 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

American Woodcock: Mostly singles, but one count of 7 on 5 Nov at Tedesco ELC *Story* (SSP).

Wilson's Snipe, Bays Branch WMA, Guthrie, *17 October 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Wilson's Snipe: Seventy-five reported on 1 Nov at Eagle Flats WMA *Hancock* (CPL). Major movement south out of Iowa from roughly Nov 10-20 (eBird).

Spotted Sandpiper: South Twin L *Calhoun* had all highest counts: 31, 25, 25, 20 and 14 between 8-21 Aug (SSP, EE, HL, CDB). Latest record on 20 Sep at Sweet Marsh WMA *Bremer* (KCR).

Solitary Sandpiper: High was 10 on 20 Aug at Maskunky M *Mahaska* (JaJ). Last was a single on 25 Oct at AHHP *Story* (WO).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Highs of 300 on 12 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (BCC) and on 13 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe). Last on 13 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TJD).

Willet: Few reports this fall with only 7 individuals reported. High was 2 on 8 Aug at rural dairy ponds *Woodbury* (CoHa, MaH). Last was one on 21 Aug at South Twin L *Calhoun* (SSP).

Greater Yellowlegs: High of 50 on 3 Nov at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). Latest was 2 on 19 Nov at *Montrose* Lee (SJD).

Wilson's Phalarope: High of 7 on 7 Aug at Badger Lake WMA *Monona* (CoHa). Last was 2 on 21 Sep at South Twin L Calhoun (BWi).

Red-necked Phalarope: High of 7 on 29 Aug at South Twin L *Calhoun* (BWi) and another 7 on 18 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Numbers down substantially from 2021 when hundreds were seen in the NW corner of the state. (eBird). Last were 3 on 21 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Red Phalarope: One seen from 10-11 Sep at South Twin L *Calhoun* (DSi-ph, CDB-ph, EE-ph, HL-ph).

Sabine's Gull: There were 1-2 juveniles 29 Sep to 6 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, AB, m.ob.). One was at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* from 24-27 Oct (JF, m.ob.). Another was seen on 1 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Bonaparte's Gull: First was a single on 13 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CW). High was 580 on 5 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

LITTLE GULL: Single 2nd cycle on 24-25 Aug at Red Rock Res Marion (*SJD-ph).

Little Gull, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, *25 August 2022. Photograph by Stephen Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Laughing Gull: Juvenile 3-12 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB, BE).

Franklin's Gull: There were 60,000 reported on 1 Oct from Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD, CDB, EE, KaM).

Franklin's Gull, Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 26 September 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

Ring-billed Gull: High of 5000 on 29 Sep at Black Hawk Marsh WMA *Sac* (DSc).

California Gull: Single 2nd cycle on 27 Nov at Spirit L Dickinson (*SJD-ph).

Herring Gull: The first was on 20 Aug at L&D 14 *Scott* (SMF). High was 51 on 25 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Iceland Gull: Two from 27-31 Oct at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi) and another 2 on 13 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Quite a few records which would presage an incredibly abundant winter for this species along the Mississippi River. Observed from 7 counties. High was 2 on 5 Oct at Coralville Res *Johnson* (JF). Another 2 on 17 Nov at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MMa, RiR, JKe).

Least Tern: One on 3 Aug at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi). One on 19 Aug at Otter Creek Marsh WMA *Tama* (JF). One juvenile 21 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JJD, SJD).

Caspian Tern: High was 51 on 30 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). The last was a single 26 Sep at L&D 15 *Scott* (JWo).

Black Tern: High was 45 on 29 Aug at L&D 18 *Des Moines* (SMF). Last was 12 on 18 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Common Tern: Single report of two on 29 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Forster's Tern: High of 46 on 7 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SSP). Last was on 30 Oct at South Twin L *Calhoun* (MWe).

Red-throated Loon: Up to 2 (1 adult, 1 juvenile) 28 Oct to 10 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, m.ob.) Others reported from *Clinton, Dallas, Warren* and *Cerro Gordo* counties (eBird m.ob.).

Pacific Loon: One at Saylorville *Polk* from 18 Oct to 8 Nov (SJD, RJT, JB, JG, BE, AB). One from 19-25 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD, JG).

Common Loon: The first was on 9 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DCH). High was 123 on 8 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Double-crested Cormorant: High was 530 on 1 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (PF).

American White Pelican: High was 7000 on 12 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE). The majority of 1000+ counts were also at Saylorville.

American Bittern: The last was a single on 5 Nov at Ledges SP *Boone* (KJ).

Least Bittern: The last report was on 18 Sep at Ventura Marsh WMA *Cerro Gordo* (PH, JK, MH).

Great Blue Heron: Reported in 90 counties. High of 75 on 21 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe).

Great Egret: High was 270 on 8 Sep at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (WDRo). Last was 2 on 14 Nov at Armory Pond *Polk* (BJa).

Snowy Egret: The high of 12 on 10 Aug at Green Bay Bottoms *Lee* (SBi). Last was 2 on 18 Sep at Credit Island P *Scott* (JJo).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: All: one juvenile 14 Aug at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), one juvenile on 14 Aug at Montrose *Lee* (SJD-ph), 2 juveniles on 14 Aug at Trumpeter M Lee (SJD-ph), 1 juvenile on 14 Aug at Mt. Sterling W *Van Buren* (SJD), 1 juvenile on 24 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), high was 3 on 15 Aug at Heron Bend *Lee* (JLF) that continued 4-17 Aug

Cattle Egret: High of 8 on 4 Sep at Jack and Pat Bush Overlook *Scott* (WGH). Last was a single on 10 Nov at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (TM).

Green Heron: Last was a single on 8 Oct at AHHP *Story* (KeB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: High of 3 on 4 Nov at Boyer R *Sac* (DSi). Last on 10 Nov at AHHP *Story* (WO, m.ob.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Only a single juvenile 13-20 Sep at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* (BVL, m.ob.)

White-faced Ibis: High of 8 on 20 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe). Last was 3 on 21 Oct at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JF).

Turkey Vulture: High was 220 at GGHW *Marshall* 6 Oct (GGHW). There were 174 and 167 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 5 Sep and 16 Oct, respectively (HHW). The latest was a single 27 Nov near Liscomb *Marshall* (CJG).

Osprey: There were 28 and 26 at HHW Pottawattamie 17 Sep and 22 Sep, respectively (HHW). There were 2 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 7 Nov (HHW). The latest was a single at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* 9 Nov (HDP).

Osprey, Cherry Glen RA, Saylorville Lake, Polk, *12 September 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

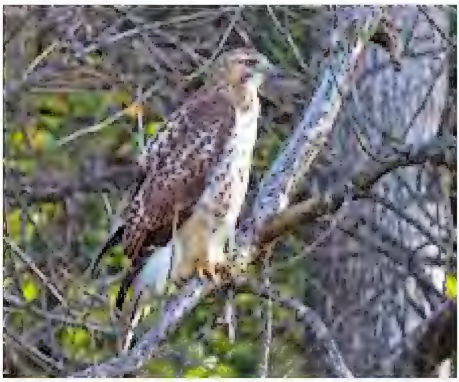
Golden Eagle: The first was a single at Titonka *Kossuth* 15 Oct (TMH). The first single at HHW *Pottawattamie* was 18 Oct with a high of 6 on 27 Nov (HHW). Only a single bird was reported on 18 Nov at GGHW *Marshall* (GGHW). There were 39 reported at HHW *Pottawattamie* for the 2022 counting season.

Northern Harrier: Peak of migration was 48 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 4 Nov (HHW).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A large pulse of 99 was at HHW *Pottawattamie* 18 Sep (HHW). Peak of migration was 171 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 22 Sep (HHW).

Cooper's Hawk: Peak of migration was 67 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 22 Sep (HHW).

Northern Goshawk: All: HHW Pottawattamie tallied singles 16, 18 and 29 Sep, 6 Oct and 11 and 13 Nov (HHW)



Red-tailed Hawk, Ledges SP, Boone, *22 September 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Bald Eagle: The three highest counts at HHW *Pottawattamie* were 81 on 17 Nov, 89 on 19 Nov and 92 on 30 Nov (HHW). The highest count at GGHW *Marshall* was 86 on 19 Nov (GGHW).

Mississippi Kite: There were 13 reported at HHW *Pottawattamie*, all in September, with a high of 5 on 2 Sep (HHW). The last was a single from the nesting population in West Des Moines *Polk* 6 Sep (RJT).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Fifteen of the 17 total reported at HHW *Pottawattamie* were in September, with a high of 3 on 22 Sep (HHW).

Broad-winged Hawk: High was 1722 at GGHW *Marshall* 21 Sep (GGHW). There were 1145 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 22 Sep (HHW). There were 900 tallied at Ledges SP *Boone* 22 Sep (KJ).

Swainson's Hawk: The first was a juvenile light morph at Tedesco Connector Tr *Story* 16 Aug (AYa). All 107 tallied at HHW *Pottawattamie* were in September and October. The first at HHW were 19 on 16 Sep with a high of 25 on 4 Oct. The last at HHW was 3 on 14 Oct. The latest for the season was a single in Algona *Kossuth* 15 Oct (MCK).

Red-tailed Hawk: Peak migration at HHW *Pottawattamie* was 404 on 4 Nov (HHW).

Rough-legged Hawk: The first were singles at HHW *Pottawattamie* (HHW) and near Pilot Mound *Boone* (PMi), both 14 Oct. Peak of migration 14 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 16 Nov (HHW).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: All: single southwest of Gilmore City *Pocahontas* 6 Oct (*CPL-ph), single juvenile light morph a Zirbel Slough WMA *Cerro Gordo* 18 Oct (*RGo, *BVL)

Long-eared Owl: All: single on 7 Nov at Saylorville WMA *Boone* (CW), single 19 Nov at East Sioux Center *Sioux* (KVZ), 2 on 26 Nov at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* (JG)

Short-eared Owl, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, *21 November 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Short-eared Owl: The first was on 21 Oct at Port *Louisa* NWR *Louisa* (NBa).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Reported in *Sioux*, *Black Hawk,*

Marshall and Johnson. Two were mist-netted on 29 Oct at the Iowa Raptor Center *Johnson* (KaD, WV).

Red-headed Woodpecker: High was 463 on 3 Sep at Hitchcock Hawk Watch *Pottawattamie* (HHW). The highest non-hawk watch count was 30 on 13 Sep at Big Hollow RA *Des Moines* (ClBi).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: High was 23 on 21 Sep at Hitchcock Hawk Watch *Pottawattamie* (JoSt).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: High was 5 on 7 Sep near New Albin *Allamakee* (JG).

Northern Flicker: High was 32 on 23 Sep at ERVP *Story* (SSP).

American Kestrel: High was 55 at HHW Pottawattamie 22 Sep (HHW).

Merlin: High was 8 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 18 Sep (HHW). The 16 total counted at the GGWH *Marshall* over the 2022 season were the 2nd highest total ever.

Peregrine Falcon: The highs highs were 7 counted at HHW *Pottawattamie* both 22 Sep and 23 Sep (HHW). Of the 49 total for the 2022 HHW season, 41 were tallied in September.

Prairie Falcon: All: single at HHW *Pottawattamie* 10 Sep (HHW), single at Amana *Iowa* 13 Nov (BCC-ph), single at HHW *Pottawattamie* 24 Nov (HHW); single 27 Nov in rural *Calhoun* (SJD)

Great Crested Flycatcher: The last was a single at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* 23 Sep (JKe).

Western Kingbird: Reported in five counties: Fremont, Harrison, Polk, Pottawattamie, Woodbury. The last in central Iowa was a single in Des Moines *Polk* 24 Aug (BTh). The last in the state was a single at Stone SP *Woodbury* 25 Aug (KKe, MKe).

Eastern Kingbird: High was 60 east of Huxley *Story* 31 Aug (PMi). The last was a single at Purple Martin Lake Water Resource Area *Polk* 26 Sep (TJD).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: All: a single just north of Morning Sun *Louisa* 1 Oct (SBi, WV, KaD, RAS)

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The last was a single in Charles City *Floyd* 26 Sep (DaW).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The last was a single at Saylorville WMA *Boone* 10 Oct (CW) and another single the same day at F.W. Kent P *Johnson* (JKe).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The last was as single at Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor *Story* 26 Sep (SSP).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reported in 14 counties. The last was a single at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* 8 Sep (SN, YvNi).

Alder Flycatcher: The first was 2 vocalizing at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 9 Aug (SCS). The last was a single vocalizing at Prairie Park Fishery *Linn* 8 Sep (CT).

Willow Flycatcher: The last was a single southwest of Protivin *Chickasaw* 12 Sep (CJL).

Least Flycatcher, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, 30 August 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Least Flycatcher: High was 14 at ERVP *Story* 3 Sep (PMi, m.ob.). The last was a single at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* 28 Sep (DSi).

Eastern Phoebe: The last was a single at West Lake County P *Scott* 1 Nov (RyC).

White-eyed Vireo: Reported in five counties: Story, Scott, Johnson, Lee and Washington. A single bird was at L Macbride *Johnson* 2-22 Sep (m.ob.). The last was the second latest single seen 17 Oct in Ames *Story* (SJD).

Bell's Vireo: Reported in 19 counties. The last was a single northeast of Hosper *Sioux* 10 Sep (JDJ).

Yellow-throated Vireo: The last was a single at West Lake County P *Scott* 4 Oct (SMF).

Blue-headed Vireo: The first was a single at Spirit Lake *Dickinson* 29 Aug (ET). Highs of 6 were at both Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT) and Peterson P *Story* (EKe) on 11 Sep. The last was 2 at Bickelhaupt Arboretum *Clinton* 16 Oct (EEO).

Philadelphia Vireo: Reported in 38 counties. The first was a single at Buffalo *Scott* 18 Aug (RAS). High was 7 at both Volga River SRA *Fayette* 6 Sep (JG) and Cold Water Spring State Preserve *Winneshiek* 13 Sep (CJL). The last was a single at Scott County P *Scott* 9 Oct (FSS).

Warbling Vireo: The last was a single at Scott County P *Scott* (SMF) and a single at Hickory Grove P *Story* (KyQu), both 27 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: A decent count of 20 was at Clear Lake SP *Cerro Gordo* 2 Sep (CPL). High was 20 in Urbandale *Polk* 7 Sep (BE). The last was a single northeast of Hospers *Sioux* 14 Oct (JDJ).

Loggerhead Shrike: All: a single east of Amana *Iowa/Johnson* 9 Aug (BCC), a family group of 5 northwest of Grand River *Decatur* 14 Aug (SSP), a single at Wildways *Boone* 2 Nov (WO)

Northern Shrike: The first was a single at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* 22 Oct (JoW).

Blue Jay: High was exactly 1446 counted at High Trestle Trail Bridge *Boone* 25 Sep (AYa).

Fish Crow: Up to 3 were at Saylorville Res *Polk*, continuing from the summer up to the last sighting on 5 Sep (RJT, m.ob.).

Tufted Titmouse: A single was at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center *Woodbury* 2-27 Nov (RaW, m.ob.).

Bank Swallow: High was 120 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 13 Aug (NiSc). The last was 5 at Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie* 24 Sep (JoSt).

Tree Swallow: High was 5000 at Hendrickson Marsh WMA *Story* 23 Sep (EE, HL, PMi). The last were 34 at West Branch Cedar 5 Nov (StMa).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The last was a single at Copper Creek L *Polk* 27 Oct (WiC).

Purple Martin: There were 200 just northwest of Waukee *Dallas* 7 Aug (RJT). High was 300 at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* 25 Aug (BFH, JP). The last was 2 at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* 12 Sep (WGH).

Barn Swallow: The most was 500 at Hendrickson Marsh WMA *Story* 23 Sep (EE, HL, PMi, WiC). The last was 3 at Sugar Bottom WA *Johnson* 23 Oct (JMc).

Cliff Swallow: The last was 10 at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* 26 Sep (KP). The highs were 250 at L&D 14

Scott 17 Aug and 250 at Hendrickson Marsh WMA *Marshall* 21 Aug (WiC).

Cliff Swallow, Waterworks Road, Madrid, Boone*, 2 August 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The first were all on 3 Sep: a single north of Terril *Dickinson* (LiP), 2 at Robinson Wildlife Acres *Story* (KaM) and a single in Marion *Linn* (JOD). High was 31 at Robert Mulroney Recreation WA *Palo Alto* (CPL). The last was a single on 17 Nov at State Forest Nursery *Story* (WiC).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The first was a single 21 Sep at Cedar River NRA *Black Hawk* (WV). High was 45 on 23 Oct at Peggy's Tr *Story* (SHo).

Cedar Waxwing: The high was 200 on 11 Sep at South Twin L *Calhoun* (CDB, EE, HL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The first was a single 15 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RTJ). The high was 8 on 11 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RTJ).

Brown Creeper: The first was a single 28 Aug near Hospers *Sioux* (JDJ).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The last was a single 6 Oct at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (DGE).

ROCK WREN: ALL: one on 20 Sep at Jester P *Polk* (*ErDo-ph), one on 28 Nov in Grimes *Polk* (*JB-ph, *AB-ph)

Carolina Wren: Up to 2 from 23-26 Aug at Stone SP *Woodbury* (BFH, JP, KKe, MKe). A single on 4 Sep at Dog Creek P *O'Brien* (JG). A single was possibly continuing 26 Oct at Stone SP *Woodbury* (GLV).

House Wren: The high was 25 on 6 Aug at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (EEO). The last was a single on 2 Nov at Goose Pond Natural Area *Linn* (WV).

Winter Wren: The first was a single 22 Sep at South Skunk River Tr *Story* (SSP) and 2 the same day in Marion *Linn* (JOD). The high was 7 on 7 Oct at Peggy's Tr *Story* (EKe).

Winter Wren, Marion, Linn*, 7 October 2022. Photograph by Jim Durbin, Marion, IA.*

Sedge Wren: The high was 18 on 16 Aug at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (WWH). The last was a single on 5 Nov at TELC *Story* (SSP).

Marsh Wren: The high was 28 on 31 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (CW). The last was a single on 30 Oct at Koutny Pond *Buchanan* (WV).

Gray Catbird: Two notable late reports were a single 23 Nov at ERVP *Story* (EKe) and a single 28 Nov at Hickory Hill Park *Johnson* (JHu).

Brown Thrasher: The last was a single 9 Nov in Iowa City *Johnson* (SKz).

Northern Mockingbird: Reported in 7 counties. The last were 3 on 17 Sep at Big Sand Mound Preserve *Louisa* (JTo, m.ob.).

Eastern Bluebird: Reported in 68 counties.

Veery: Reported in 18 counties. The first fall report was a single 22 Aug east of New Hampton *Chickasaw* (KFl). The last was a single 21 Sep in Buffalo *Scott* (RAS).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Reported in 10 counties. The first was a single 20 Aug at AHHP *Story* (EKe). The high was 7 on 4 Sep detected during a night flight survey in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (JE). The last was a single 28 Sep at Princeton WMA *Scott* 28 Sep (SMF).

Swainson's Thrush, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, *11 September 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Swainson's Thrush: Reported in 34 counties. The first was a single 25 Aug at Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area *Benton* (WV). The high was 20 on 4 Sep detected during a night flight survey in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (JE). The last was a single on 8 Sep at AHHP *Story* (WO).

Hermit Thrush: Reported in 25 counties. The first was a single 6 Sep at Palisades P *Winneshiek* (BVe).

Hermit Thrush, Marion, Linn, 7 October 2022. Photograph by Jim Durbin, Marion, IA.

Wood Thrush: Reported in 20 counties. The last was a single 9 Oct at Grammer Grove Wildlife Area *Marshall* (ASp).

American Robin: The high was exactly 1664 on 8 Oct at High Trestle Trail Bridge *Boone* (AYa).

VARIED THRUSH: All: single from 18-19 Oct in Carroll *Carroll* (*CW-ph, *DSi-ph)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reported in 27 counties, mostly in the southeastern quadrant of the state. Current outlier counties possibly on the brink of increased expansion appear to be Poweshiek, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, Marshall and Grundy.

American Pipit, Harrier Marsh area, Boone, *16 November 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

American Pipit: Reported in 25 counties. The first was a single

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Granger, Dallas, *12 September 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

Rufous Hummingbird, East side of Big Spirit Lake, Dickinson, *17 August 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

American Golden-Plover, Saylorville Lake, Polk, *27 September 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Ruddy Turnstone, Saylorville Lake, Boone, *9 August 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Cooper's Hawk, West Des Moines, Dallas, *17 November 2022. Photograph by Reid I. Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Bald Eagle, Saylorville Lake, Sandpiper RA, Polk, *13 August 2022. Photograph by Ron Goodman, Ankeny, IA.*

Rough-legged Hawk, Madrid, Boone, *23 November 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Belted Kingfisher, Raccoon River, Greene, *29 September 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

American Kestrel, Madrid, Boone, *26 October 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Eastern Kingbird, Meadow Lake, Adair, *18 August 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.*

Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos, Ed Thelen Yard, Dickinson, *11 September 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

Northern Shrike, 100th Street, Big Creek S. P., Polk, *16 November 2022. Photograph by Reid I. Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Brown Creeper, Marion, Linn, *7 October 2022. Photograph by Jim Durbin, Marion, IA.*

Sedge Wren, Red Rock Reservoir, Jasper, *3 August 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.*

Varied Thrush, Carroll, *18 October 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Evening Grosbeak, Muscatine, *30 October 2022. Photograph by Gerald White, Muscatine, IA.*

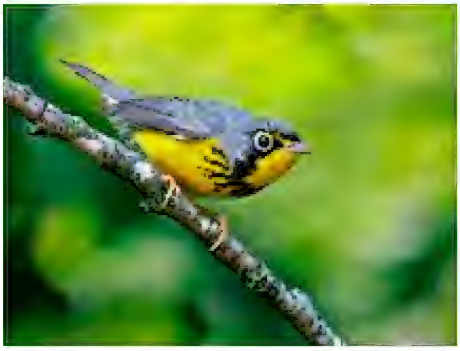
Nelson's Sparrow, Kiowa Marsh, Sac, *16 October 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Savannah Sparrow, Pickerel Lake, Buena Vista, *1 October 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Spotted Towhee, South Twin Lake, Calhoun, *24 September 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Golden-winged Warbler, Ed Thelen Yard, Dickinson, *10 September 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

Nashville Warbler, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, *7 September 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



Canada Warbler, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, *28 August 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Summer Tanager, High Trestle Trail, Madrid, Boone, *18 August 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

Blue Grosbeak, Saylorville Lake, Sandpiper RA, Polk, *7 August 2022. Photograph by Ron Goodman, Ankeny, IA.*

3 Sep at South Twin L *Calhoun* (DSi). The high was 150 on 18 Oct at Bank Swallow Bend WA *Warren* (DTh). The last was 2 on 23 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

EVENING GROSBEAK: All: 12 on 30 Oct in Lisbon *Linn* (*ShBr-ph), five on 30 Oct in Bondurant *Polk* (*MiLe-ph), 2 on 30 Oct near Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (*GDW-ph), one on 1 Nov in Ames *Story* (*SeVe-ph), one on 2 Nov in Colfax *Jasper* (*VaEi-ph), two on 3 Nov at Lake Meyer P *Winneshiek* (*LR-ph), 10 on 3 Nov in Altoona *Polk* (*TJD-ph), two on 4 Nov in Hills *Johnson* (*AC-ph), two on 4 Nov at the Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station Story (*CT-ph)

Purple Finch: Reported in 36 counties. The first was a single 16 Sep at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (DGE). Highs of 8 were found 10 Nov at Pleasant Creek SRA *Linn* (WV), 13 Nov near Centerville *Appanoose* (LPi) and 13 Nov at Chain-O-Lakes WMA *Linn* (JE).

Common Redpoll: All: a single 29 Nov at Heritage Tr *Dubuque* (KJAB)

White-winged Crossbill: All: a single female 5 Sep in Dubuque *Dubuque* (TM)

Pine Siskin: Reported in 14 counties. The first was a single 27 Sep in Buffalo *Scott* (RAS). The high was 8 on 22 Oct just west of Moorhead *Monona* (JC).

American Goldfinch: The high was 123 on 6 Sep at Volga River SRA *Fayette* (JG).

Lapland Longspur: First on 11 Oct near Nora Springs *Floyd* (DaW). High of 2500 on 16 Nov in rural *Boone* (CW).

Smith's Longspur: All: 5 on 20 Oct in rural Floyd (RGo), high was 15 on 1 Nov at The Square *Woodbury* (BFH, JP)

Snow Bunting: First was 3 on 19 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KaMo, ErJu). High was 41 on 15 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB).

Grasshopper Sparrow: High was 25 was on 2 Aug at The Square *Woodbury* (MaH). Last reports, both single on 10 Oct, at Edna Shain Fen and WA *Benton* (WV) and Black Hawk P *Black Hawk* (DGE).

Lark Sparrow: Last was a single on 6 Oct at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (MaH).

Chipping Sparrow: High of 35 on 6 Sep at Volga River SRA *Fayette* (JG).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Last was a single on 26 Oct at Tedesco Connector Tr *Story* (SSP).

Field Sparrow: Last was a single on 26 Nov at Credit Island P *Scott* (WGH).

Fox Sparrow: First was a single on 26 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (LM). High of 25 on 3 Nov at Cedar River Crossing *Johnson* (TE).

American Tree Sparrow: High was 250 on 13 Nov at Chain-O-Lakes WMA *Linn* (JE).

Dark-eyed Junco: First report on 21 Sep at Martin L *Black Hawk* (BLP).

White-crowned Sparrow: First a single on 22 Sep north of Terril *Dickinson* (LiP). High of 30 on 25 Oct at AHHP *Story* (WO).

Harris's Sparrow: First was 10 Sep near Hospers *Sioux* (JDJ). High of 90 on 14 Oct at the same location.

White-throated Sparrow: First a single on 11 Sep at New Haven

Potholes P *Mitchell* (SSt). High of 120 on 7 Oct at South Twin L *Calhoun* (BWi).

Vesper Sparrow: High of 11 on 27 Sep at Tedesco Connector Tr *Story* (SSP). Last was a single on 28 Oct at the same location (SSP).

LeConte's Sparrow: First was a single on 26 Sep at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JKe). High of 64 on 21 Oct in rural *Harrison* (JC). Forty-five on 9 Oct at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (AB, JG, JB, RJT). Last was a single on 1 Nov at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (DH-ph).

Nelson's Sparrow: First was 2 on 22 Sep in rural *Floyd* (RGo) and 4 the same day at Bank Swallow Bend WA *Warren* (WiC). High of 12 on 1 Oct at Bank Swallow Bend WA Warren (PMi, WiC). Last on 28 Oct at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (BT).

Henslow's Sparrow: Last on 13 Oct at Tuttle L *Emmet* (MaKe).

Savannah Sparrow: High of 170 on 9 Oct at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (AB, JG, JB, RJT).

Song Sparrow: High of 51 on 15 Oct at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (TM). Forty-nine on 19 Oct at Davis W *Monona* (JC).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First was a single 4 Sep at Marathon Poland Pond *Buena Vista* (DSi). High was 36 on 19 Oct at Davis W *Monona* (JC). Last a single on 24 Nov at Credit Island *Scott* (KeTo).

Swamp Sparrow: High of 97 on 15 Oct at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (TM).

Spotted Towhee: Outside of northwest Iowa: a single and first of season 24 Sep at South Twin L *Calhoun* (DSi), single 6-7 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (EE, HL, JB, RJT), single 8-25 Oct at AHHP Story (TrCd m.ob.), a single on 26 Oct at Wanatee P *Linn* (KaD, m.ob.), a single 30 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (GoBr)

Eastern Towhee: Last was a single 28 Nov at HHP Johnson (JHu).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reported in five counties. Last was a single on 17 Sep at Scott County P *Scott* (JoDi).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Last was 6 on 27 Oct near Dows *Franklin* (SSP).

Bobolink: Two high counts of 25 on 6 Sep at Big Wall Lake WMA *Wright* (SSP) and on 11 Sep at Colo Bogs WMA *Story* (WiC). Last report of 2 on 16 Oct at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi).

Eastern Meadowlark: High was 20 on 9 Oct at Cedar River Crossing *Johnson* (JMc).

Western Meadowlark: Reported in 24 counties. Farthest east counties: *Jackson*, *Scott*, *Muscatine*. Only reports in double digits in November.

Orchard Oriole: Reported in 27 counties. Last on 8 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT).

Baltimore Oriole: Last was a late record on 15-19 Nov at a private location *Pottawattamie* (MaFr).

Swamp Sparrow, Pickerel Lake, Buena Vista, *1 October 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Red-winged Blackbird: Two counts of 50,000+ on 30 Oct at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (TM) and on 2 Nov at Hunters Run Park *Johnson* (DH). A careful count of 32,790 birds was also reported 22 Oct at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: The high was 5200 on 12 Nov in rural *Linn* (KJM).

Rusty Blackbird: First was on 28 Sep at Wanatee P *Linn* (KiP). High was 220 on 27 Oct at Dows *Franklin* (SSP). There were 170 on 1 Nov at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (DH).

Brewer's Blackbird: First was 2 on 10 Oct at the Tedesco Connector Tr *Story* (SSP). High was 155 on 27 Oct near Ventura *Hancock* (CPL).

Brewer's Blackbird, Harrier Marsh area, Boone, *17 November 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Common Grackle: Careful high count of 35,540 on 22 Oct at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS).

Great-tailed Grackle: High was 32 on 18 Oct at Dunbar Sl WMA (CW). Last was 2 on 24 Oct at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* (CW).

Ovenbird: Reported in 36 counties. The high was 10 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 12 Sep (LM). The last cluster of reports were a single at Sunderbruch P *Scott* and a single at West Lake CP *Scott*, both 4 Oct (SMF). The last was a single just south of Boone *Boone* 5 Oct (KJ).

Ovenbird, Marathon Poland Park, Buena Vista, *4 September 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Louisiana Waterthrush: All: one at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* 7 Aug (SN), 2 at Ledges SP *Boone* 9 Aug (KJ), one at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* 3 Sep (TM)

Northern Waterthrush: Reported in 27 counties. The first was a single at AHHP *Story* 6 Aug (WO). The last was a single at Sherwood P *Black Hawk* 11 Oct (DGE).

Golden-winged Warbler: Reported in 31 counties. The first was a single at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 21 Aug (JK, MH). The peak of migration was 18 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 5 Sep (DaR). The last was a single at Arney Bend WA *Marshall* 5 Oct (JeAu).

Blue-winged Warbler: Reported in 11 counties. The first was a single at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve *Jasper* 20 Aug (KVS, SCS). The high was 4 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 5 Sep (DaR). The last was a single at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 19 Sep (JKe).

Black-and-white Warbler: Reported in 62 counties. The first was a single at Arnolds P *Dickinson* 15 Aug

(Landon Koth). Some high counts were 12 at North Twin L *Calhoun* 20 Aug (NA). There were 13 at ERVP *Story* 4 Sep (SSP). The high was 24 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Sep (RJT). There were 12 at L Macbride *Johnson* 11 Sep (MHB). The last was a single at Macbride Nature Recreation Area *Johnson* 11 Oct (Jonah Pouleson).

Black-and-white Warbler, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, 28 August 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Prothonotary Warbler: Reported in 7 counties. The last was a single at Green Island WMA *Jackson* 27 Aug (SMF).

Tennessee Warbler: Reported in 54 counties. The first were two at AHHP *Story* 18 Aug (AYa). There were 15 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Aug (SCS). There were 22 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28 Aug (RJT, TJD). Another count of 15 was at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* 6 Sep (DH). The high was 27 at L Macbride *Johnson* 11 Sep (MHB). The last double-digit count was 14 at Cedar L *Linn* 27 Sep (JE). The last was a single north of Terril *Dickinson* 3 Nov (LiP-ph), which ties the 2nd latest date.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Reported in 36 counties. The first was a single at Winegar P *Benton* 19 Sep (WV). The high was 12 at Tedesco Environmental Learning Center *Story* 26 Sep (SSP). The last were 2 at Neal Smith Tr *Polk* 1 Nov (AB).

Nashville Warbler: Reported in 70 counties. The first was a single at Ledges SP *Boone* 19 Aug (DCH). The high was 20. One count was just northeast of Hospers *Sioux* 5 Sep (JDJ). The other was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Sep (RJT). The last double-digit count was 11 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Sep (SCS). The last was a single at Brookside P *Story* 9 Nov (HL).

Mourning Warbler: Reported in 26 counties. The first was a single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 22 Aug (RJT). The high was 6 at Rainbow Bend WMA *Calhoun* 30 Aug (BWi). The last was a single at Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie* 24 Sep (JoSt).

Kentucky Warbler: All: a single in Buffalo *Scott* 24 Aug (RAS)

Common Yellowthroat: Reported in 77 counties. The high was 22 north of Burlington *Des Moines* 9 Sep (BWi). The last double-digit count was 10 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 29 Sep (JKe). The last was a single at Davis Wetland *Monona* 19 Oct (JC).

Hooded Warbler: All: a single female at East Lake P *Clarke* 6 Sep (DeT)

American Redstart: Reported in 58 counties. The high was 23 at two different locations. One was at FDR P *Dubuque* 5 Sep (DAS). The other was at L Macbride *Johnson* 11 Sep (MHB). The last was a single at Stone Brooke East Tr *Story* 4 Oct (KeB).

Cape May Warbler: Reported in 21 counties. The first was a single at Marion *Linn* 13 Aug (JOD). The

high was 6 at L Macbride *Johnson* 11 Sep (MHB). The last was a single in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* 9 Oct (MaMy).

Cerulean Warbler: All: a single at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* 7 Aug (Brett Roberts, EmHj), a single at Ashworth and Greenwood Parks *Polk* 26 Aug (RJT)

Northern Parula: Reported in 29 counties. The first fall report was surprisingly a single north of Burlington *Des Moines* 21 Aug (BWi). The high was 10 at Seminole Valley P *Linn* 13 Sep (EmHo). The last was a single at Winegar P *Benton* 11 Oct (WV).

Magnolia Warbler, Ed Thelen Yard, Dickinson, *10 September 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

Magnolia Warbler: Reported in 53 counties. The first was a single at Cedar Creek Timber & Wetland *Jefferson* 10 Aug (TE). A clear peak of migration was 20 at Peterson P *Story* 4 Sep (EEO) and 20 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Sep (RJT). The high was 21 at West Lake County P *Scott* 13 Sep (SMF). The last was a single at Black Hawk Mitigation *Black Hawk* 15 Oct (TSS).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Reported in 44 counties. The first was a single at F.W. Kent P *Johnson* 14 Aug (MHB). The high was 12 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Sep (RLC). The last was a single at Peggy's Tr *Story* 5 Oct (KGr).

Blackburnian Warbler: Reported in 34 counties. The first was a single north of Terril *Dickinson* 14 Aug (LiP). Another single was found the same day at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). The high was 12 at North Twin L *Calhoun* 20 Aug (NA). Another notable tally was 9 north of Burlington *Des Moines* 16 Sep (BWi). The last was a single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2 Oct (EEO).

Yellow Warbler: Reported in 50 counties. The high was 23 at Trumbull L *Clay* 30 Aug (ET). The last was a single at East Lake P *Clarke* 25 Sep (DeT).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Reported in 51 counties. The first was a single at Coralville Res *Johnson* 14 Aug (MHB). There was another single on the same date in *Marion* Linn (JOD). The high was 25 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 5 Sep (DaR). The last was a single at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 5 Oct (JKe).

Blackpoll Warbler: All: single at Tedesco Connector Tr *Story* 30 Aug (SSP), single at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* 2 Sep (RGo), single at ERVP *Story* 4 Sep (SSP), single at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (WGH), single at Blue Grass *Scott* 17 Sep (StBe), single at Mt Auburn Bridge access *Benton* 19 Sep (WV)

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Re-ported in 14 counties. The first was a single at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 4 Sep (DH). The last was a single female in a Cedar Rapids backyard *Linn* that was present 16-21 Nov (ASc & MSc).

Palm Warbler: Reported in 37 counties. The first were 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 31 Aug (CW). The high was 25 at Credit Island P *Scott* 22 Sep (SMF). The last double-digits count was 20 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Oct (RJT). The last was a single at Credit Island P *Scott* 7 Nov (RAS).

Palm Warbler, Kiowa Marsh, Sac, *9 October 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Pine Warbler: Reported in 8 counties. The first was a single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Aug (RLC). The last was a single at Riverview RA *Black Hawk* 2 Oct (TSS).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Reported in 75 counties. The first was a single at L Macbride *Johnson* 2 Sep (MaFe). The high was 100 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Sep (RLC). A count of 60 was at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 18 Oct (DH). The last double-digit count was 20 at Water Works P *Polk* 25 Oct (UDG).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Reported in 7 counties. The last was a single at Sugar Bottom WA *Johnson* 25 Sep (MHB).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: A single was found at Noelridge P *Linn* 30 Aug (*JTo-ph). Another single was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 3 Sep (*AB-ph). These were the 5th and 6th state records, respectively.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Reported in 42 counties. The first was a single at Ledges SP *Boone* 26 Aug (DCH). On the same date a single was reported at Ashworth and Greenwood Parks *Polk* (RJT). There were several reports of 6 from 4 to 16 Sep. The last was a single at Harman Reserve Black Hawk 12 Oct (DTM).

Black-throated Green Warbler, Ed Thelen Yard, Dickinson, *12 September 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

Canada Warbler: Reported in 35 counties. The first was a single at Parker's Woods Cerro Gordo 14 Aug (RGo). The high was 6 at Hickory Hill P Johnson 5 Sep (DaR). The last was a single at Hickory Hill P Johnson 1 Oct (JoMc).

Wilson's Warbler: Reported in 42 counties. The first was a single at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* 16 Aug (MP). The high was 10 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Sep (RLC). The last was a single northeast of Hospers *Sioux* 29 Sep (JDJ).

Summer Tanager: Reported in 16 counties. A single was at Stone SP *Woodbury* 10-13 Aug (CoHa, MaH, TLe). The last was a single east of Mystic *Appanoose* 11 Oct (TNJ).

Scarlet Tanager: The last was male 30 Nov, tying the 2nd latest date, at a feeder in Ames *Story* (Linda and John Eidenmiller *fide* SJD-ph).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A high of 25 was tallied on a nocturnal flight count in Cedar Rapids *Linn* on 4 Sep (JE). The last was a single in Charles City *Floyd* 10 Oct (DaW).

Blue Grosbeak: Reported in 27 counties. The last was 2 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Oct (CW). This was a new 3rd latest date.

Indigo Bunting: The last was a single at Cedar River Crossing *Johnson* 16 Oct (BCC).

Dickcissel: The last was a 1st winter female visiting a feeder at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* 15 Nov (DTM).

Dickcissel, Saylorville Lake, Sandpiper RA, Polk, *7 August 2022. Photograph by Ron Goodman, Ankeny, IA.*

Wilson's Warbler, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, *6 September 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

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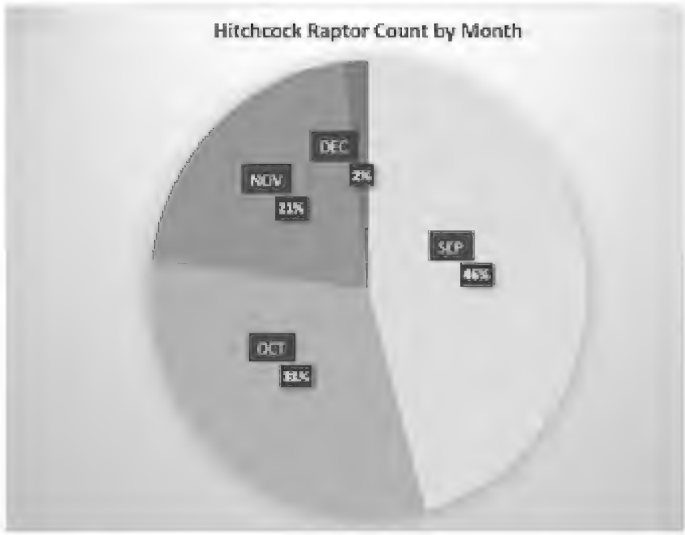
Hitchcock Hawkwatch Fall Migration 2022

Mick Bressler

Over 21 Fall seasons, Hitchcock Hawkwatch has recorded a grand total of 202,867 diurnal raptors of 22 species, with a total of 14,627.3 hours of survey time being logged. 2022 marked the 21st consecutive season survey at Hitchcock Hawkwatch. Surveys were conducted from September 1st to December 13th, 2022, with 701 hours of survey time logged.

Before 2022, the Hitchcock Hawkwatch twenty-year Fall migration average was 9,542 diurnal raptors per season, and it has been riding below average for the last eight years. But not this year - Hitchcock struck with an energetic migration with adrenaline running and raptors flowing through the skies. A season total of 12,033 raptors of 21 species were counted this year, for an average passage rate of 17 raptors per hour. This was the 3rd highest season on record and the first to tally 21 species. A solid flight for an amazing flight line was observed. It was good to see a rebound, and hope for many more in the future.



Eight of the 21 species - Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel and the Northern Harrier - comprised 94.8% of the overall season total. The other 5.2% represented 13 raptor species, which accounted for only ≤ 1.25% per species. 0.3% were unidentified raptors. This concludes the 2022 season total. 45.75% of the raptors, representing 17 species, were counted in September. The most numerous raptor that month was Broad-winged Hawk, comprising 43.7% of the overall count. 31.28% of raptors that were counted for the season, representing 16 species, were seen in October. The most numerous - 35.8 % - was Turkey Vulture, followed right behind by the Red-tailed Hawk at 35.6% and Sharp-shinned Hawk at 12.4%. 21.1% of raptors that were counted for the season were in November, with 15 species. The most numerous raptor was Red-tailed Hawk at 59.4% of the overall count, followed by Bald Eagle with

23.1% and Northern Harrier at 6%. 1.86% of raptors that were counted for the season were in December with 8 species. recorded. The most numerous was Bald Eagle at 48.2% of the overall count in that month, followed by the Red-tailed Hawk with 32.6% of the count.

Black Vulture: Season total = 5, high count = 2, first detected 16 September, last detected 21 September. A rare migrant that has only been counted twice at Hitchcock - 9/22/2002 and 08/20/2005. Vultures, and in this case Black Vulture, are becoming less of a rare sighting as Black Vulture continue to expand its range northward in response to a warming climate.

Turkey Vulture: Season total = 2414 (20.0 %), high count = 174 on 5 September and 167 on 16 October, first detected 2 September, last detected 29 October. 55.8% of the Turkey Vultures were counted in October, with peak flight after the first week of that month.

Osprey: Season total = 151 (1.25 %), high count = 28 on 17 September, first detected 1 September, last detected 7 November. Other than the two birds sighted on 7 November, peak flight was mid-September and pretty much fell off after the first week of October.

Bald Eagle: Season total = 1041 (8.7 %), high count = 92 on 30 November, first detected 2 September, last detected 11 December. 56.2 % of the Bald Eagles seen this season passed through in November, which had a steady flow of Eagles flying through and peak flight in mid-November. Cold fronts and powerful north and northwest winds brought on Bald Eagles in force, mostly riding down the western bluff. It's good to see a strong flight this year after a five-year low.

Northern Harrier: Season total = 394 (3.3 %), high count = 48 on 4 November, first detected 4 September, last detected 11 December. This species peaked from the last week of October until mid-November. Flights of Northern Harriers were steady and strong this year. A few good observations of Northern Harriers streaming one after the other, flowing steadily on the northern winds, especially. on the front and backsides of a couple of mid-season storms that blew through.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Season total = 1231 (10.2 %), high count = 171 on 22 September, first detected 1 September, last detected 10 December. Peak flight was around the third week of September and they kept a steady pace thereafter, dropping off mostly after the first week of November. 52.2% of the Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted in September and 37.8% counted in October. Overall, a big hit for Sharp-shinned hawks with their migration being well distributed over the duration of the Fall migration survey. A welcoming uplift to an eight-year low and, overall, an excellent flight by the Sharp-shinned & Cooper's Hawks this year.

Cooper's Hawk: Season total = 551 (4.6 %), high count = 67 on 22 September, first detected 2 September, last detected 11 December. Peak flight was around the third week of September. Numbers dropped off after the first week of November. 54.6% of Cooper's Hawks were counted in September and 41.4 % counted in October. Cooper's Hawks are increasing across the country,

adapting to urban to suburban environments with the potential of suitable structural habitat and an ample source of food. Cooper's Hawks are still found in undisturbed wildlands, but they are also drawn to green spaces and parks with groves of trees and openings, abandoned lots with brushy habitat, fallow fields that emulate grasslands with pockets of trees, restoration and connectivity of riparian corridors, and reliable bird feeders for easy pickings. This increases the probability of an upswing in Cooper's Hawk populations.

Northern Goshawk: Season total = 6, only observed a single bird each detection, first detected 16 September, last detected 13 November. The average count per fall migration is 5 birds. Three adults and 3 young/juvenile Northern Goshawks were observed in 2022. All but one were seen initially flying low, pumping over the tree canopy coursing the landscape. An elusive forest dwelling raptor, this bird seems to remain elusive while migrating by Hitchcock. One may tend to wonder how many may pass low and undetected with our busy sky gazing eyes. Balance in technique is key to assessing the frequency of this species.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Season total = 17, high count = 3 on 22 September, first detected 2 September, last detected 6 November. 15 Red-shouldered Hawks were sighted in September, with peak flight just after mid-September. The species was not seen in October, and two juvenile birds passed through on 5 and 6 November.

Broad-winged Hawk: Season total = 2455 (20.4 %), high count = 1145 on 22 September, first detected 2 September, last detected 9 October. The vast majority (98%) of Broad-winged Hawks were counted in September, with peak flight during the 3rd week of the month. Our second biggest hitter of the season with an impressive flight, bursting through in the later half of September and generating a Hitchcock season record.

Red-tailed Hawk: Season total = 3064 (25.5 %), high count = 404 on 4 November, first detected 2 September, last detected 11 December. Peak flight began near mid- October and ran strong until the first week of November. Red-tailed Hawk was our biggest hitter, covering slightly more than a quarter of the overall season total. 49.2% of the Red-tailed Hawks were counted in November. 5 subspecies were noted, including *borealis, calurus, abieticola*, Krider's, and Harlan's. Red-tailed Hawk action here was a major highlight and added to the excitement throughout the season with a steady flow of migrants and diversity. This champion of hawks is both overrated and underrated - it may be ubiquitous across North America, but thankfully it comes through here in style and in many flavors. Good to see the Red-tailed Hawk this season on an upstroke from a 9-year low.

Rough-legged Hawk: Season total = 107 (0.9 %), high count = 14 on 16 November, first detected 14 October, last detected 11 December. 80.4% of the Rough-legged Hawks were counted in November, with peak flight starting after the first week of the month. The Rough-legged Hawk's nomadic movements and cyclic shifts in their northern prey base could potentially influence the species' southward movement and flight passage rate. Excellent season for

Rough-legged Hawk flying through, with several dark morphs sighted.

Swainson's Hawk: Season total = 107 (0.9 %), high count = 25 on 4 October, first detected 16 September, last detected 14 October. Flight peaked in mid-September for a few days and picked back up briefly in the first week of October. It's been about 10 years since a big push of Swainson's Hawks came through, with a pulse of a respectable number in 2018; there has otherwise been a linear decline in numbers, but Swainson's Hawk is still counted every season. This area seems to be the eastern threshold of the Swainson's Hawk's migration path, so the predictability of a strong flight is low and fluctuates from year to year. Ideally, timing and weather conditions/patterns need to be just right, typically with a cold snap or front to the north and broad NW winds, pushing them our way but apparently constellations in the cosmos need to align just right as well, being those conditions were observed but the flight was still light. All in all, a fantastic raptor to be cutting by this site.

Ferruginous Hawk: Season total = 3, first detected 14 October, last detected 16 November. Low numbers, but Ferruginous Hawk has been counted here for all but five of the 21 years at Hitchcock. This seems to be the eastern extreme for migrating Ferruginous Hawk. Overall a great bird and beautiful *Buteo* to be sighted at the Hawkwatch.

Golden Eagle: Season total = 39, high count = 6 on 27 November, first detected 18 October, last detected 11 December. 69.2% of the Golden Eagles were counted in November. This king (or queen) of the sky passes through here, albeit in low numbers - a big, wonderful raptor to bless the tower with its magnificence and power, a stunning bird indeed and a good count this season.

American Kestrel: Season total = 255 (2.1 %), high count = 55 on 22 September, first detected 1 September, last detected 27 November. 86.3% of American Kestrels were counted in September. Peak flight was the third week of September, and numbers pretty much dropped off after 16 October, with only 3 late birds sighted in November. The American Kestrel seemed to be the most responsive raptor to our owl decoy, Leroy, when used. A good showing of American kestrel this season, and we hope for a continued rebound.

Merlin: Season total = 88 (0.7 %), high count = 7 on 22 September, first detected 3 September, last detected 24 November. Peak flight was the 3rd week of September, but numbers and detections were more consistent in October and, for a few weeks, in November. Whether high, low, or in between, as it goes, the Merlin was slicing through on a mission this season with many birds breaking fairly close to the tower at eye-level. A solid count this season and always a fun falcon to chase during migration.

Peregrine Falcon: Season total = 49 (0.4 %), high count = 7 on 22 and 23 September, First detected 11 September and last detected 13 October. Peak flight occurred the 3rd week of September, dropping clean off with no other sighting of a Peregrine Falcon after 13 October. 83.7% of the Peregrine Falcons were counted in September. The average count for the season is around 51. Several Peregrine Falcons were observed taking the nearest west and east cuts/drainages, slicing right by the tower.

Prairie Falcon: Season total = 3, first detected 10 September, second bird on 24 November, last detected 11 December. Slim numbers of Prairie Falcons are counted at this site, but another great bird added to the Hawkwatch and reliably counted every fall. This site averages 3 birds a season.

Gyrfalcon: Season total = 1 on 16 November. A superb raptor to see up close and count this fall, with only two other Gyrfalcons counted at Hitchcock on 11 November 2014 and 31 October 2019. A gray morph adult came through during some heavy back-to-back cold fronts. Well worth braving the storms on the tower to catch a sweet glimpse of this wonderful Arctic apex predator busting through our zone.

Mississippi Kite: Season total = 13, high count = 5 on 2 September, first detected 1 September, last detected 18 September. Peak flight was the first week of September. Mississippi Kites may have been migrating earlier in August. There have only been two years in which Mississippi Kite was not counted at Hitchcock. This is definitely a special raptor seen migrating down the Loess hills. Hitchcock is one of very few northern hawkwatches that ever gets the chance to reliably count this bird in the fall migration.

A special thanks to all the birds of prey, Hitchcock Nature Center, the Padelfords, the banding crew and all the volunteers that supported such a fantastic season! Cheers to many more exciting seasons and to the strength and continued efforts for raptor conservation on a global scale. Thank You! *Eyes to the sky...*

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Mourning Warbler, Ed Thelen Yard, Dickinson, 10 September 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.

In Memoriam: Dennis Carter

Larry Reis

Photograph by Paul Hertzel

Dennis Carter was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on August 16, 1934, near the little town of Thor, where he grew up. His backyard had a nice wooded grove where he found his first birds, and he was able to identify them with the help of his dad's *Land Bird Guide*, written by Chester A. Reed in 1905. He wanted to learn more about the beautiful birds he was seeing there so he soon bought his own bird book, *The Birds of America* by John James Audubon. Thanks to his dad and Audubon, Dennis never tired of seeing birds and learning more about them. Thanks to the birds, Dennis quickly learned that patience is a virtue when birding.

Dennis was only 12 when he started keeping records of the birds he saw in the field. Those nearly daily records continued for his entire birding life and are an invaluable treasure trove of bird lore. Dennis joined the Iowa Ornithologists Union in 1947, when the junior member dues were fifty cents per year. He had an article about the nesting habits of a local loggerhead shrike published in *Iowa Bird Life* that same year.

Dennis attended Iowa State University from 1952 - 1957 and earned an MS in Wildlife Management. His MS thesis was about the population dynamics of mourning doves in Iowa. After graduation, Dennis worked as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Colorado. In his spare time, he led bird hikes around the state for the Denver Field Ornithologists. His knowledge of birds, mammals, butterflies, and wildflowers, along with his ability to keep people entertained on the trails, led to a job switch as park naturalist for the National Park Service in Zion National Park.

Later in his career, he moved east to the Shenandoah National Park and eventually ended his professional career at Delaware Water Gap, where he supervised younger naturalist interpreters.

Dennis retired to Decorah in 1990, but he didn't stop taking people out on birding and nature hikes. He volunteered his time leading bird tours at Effigy Mounds National Monument and Seed Savers Exchange, along with regular hikes to Cardinal Marsh through the Decorah Audubon Club. He also did numerous Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys in the local area. His favorite birding spot in Winneshiek County was Cardinal Marsh, where he could often find his favorite bird, the common yellowthroat, from spring through fall. Thanks to Dennis Carter, many people here in Iowa and around the country have learned to love birds and nature.

IOU Spring Meeting—100th Anniversary Celebration

Richard Sayles

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union celebrated 100 years at the beautiful Stine Barn in West Des Moines the weekend of May 5-7, 2023. Over 130 people attended, including approximately 30 first time attendees. Special thanks for those that made this event possible: Dennis and Cecille Thompson, Ann Johnson, Paul Roisen, Ted Floyd, and all the membership.

Friday night's registration and social gathering was well attended (actually had to ask people to leave so the venue could close for the evening). Old friends were greeted and new friends were made. Many had the chance to order their special edition anniversary t-shirt by using the QR code on each table. If you missed it, they are available through Raygun (https://www.rayguncustom.com/collections/iowa-ornithologists-union).

Meeting at Stine Barn. Photo by Richard Sayles.

The field trips were well planned by John Bissell. Field trip leaders: Sharon Bauer, Ray Cummins, Dr. Stephen Dinsmore, Ted Floyd, Ulrike Grimaldi, Karen and Stuart Sparkman, Tyler Harms, Eric Ollie, and Dennis Thompson.

Saturday afternoon speakers were excellent!

Steve Dinsmore leads a field trip. Photo by Chris Brochu.

Thanks to Todd Burris and Matthew Card on the talk "*Creating a Bird Friendly Yard*". They provided examples of creating habitat and providing food, shelter, water, and nesting sites for different species. They also delved into human assistance in providing these things with some best practices and how to know what you're purchasing and not waste your money on cheap bird seed.

"*Introduction to Bird Topography*" by Dr. Stephen Dinsmore was for some "a head scratcher" but also provided excellent motivation for more detailed observation. We learned that describing the details of head pattern and bill shape may be much more useful than even knowing the color of the bird.

Dr. James Dinsmore gave a very insightful talk on "*100 Years of the IOU*". There were many changes over the first 100 years, but the rate of change since our 75th anniversary has been astounding. The electronic revolution has

advanced things in so many ways. This was a theme that would be repeated later in the evening.

The business meeting concluded with the elections of new officers and board members: Welcome President Tyler Harms, Vice President Kevin Murphy, and board members Diane Crookham-Johnson and Eric Ollie.

The keynote program was by Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding* magazine and contributor to various American Birding Association programs, on "*Reflections on a century of field ornithology and a glimpse at the next 100 years*". Ted reflected on field ornithology in the 20th and 21st century and how field ornithology was forever changed with the publication of Roger Tory Peterson's first "Field Guide to the Birds". New identification techniques brought about the ability to do major projects like a Breeding Bird Atlas and seasonal reports. The invention of the iPhone may well rank in history with the invention of the printing press. Birders can now call up Birdcast from a computer in the palm of their hand and immediately adjust expectations for a day in the field. Mobile field guides and data and sound applications provide immediate feedback. And it's not just birds –the same holds true for many different organisms which birders also find interesting. The following slides from Ted's presentation illustrate the past and the present/future.

The weather was not the best for birders but the birds didn't seem to mind. At the compilation and good-byes the group had tallied 160 species. **Highlights**: Snowy Plover, Blue Grosbeak, Little Blue Heron, Gray Partridge, White Faced Ibis, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers. Total of 20 species of Parulidae.

Roger Tory Peterson and Kenn Kaufman in the field

Lakshmi Balasubramanian and Toni Proescholdt checking Henslow's Sparrow call on phone while in the field. Photo by Ted Floyd.

Thank you to Stine Barn for making this truly special 100th Anniversary.

Attendees: Pam Allen, Reid Allen, Lakshmi Balasubramanian, Rebecca Bates, Will Bates, Sharon Bauer, John Bissell, Kris Bossard, Jayden Bowen, Kristina Brede, Ken Brink, Christopher Brochu, Anna Buckardt Thomas, Joyce Burkhardt, Todd Burkhardt, Katie Byerly, Mark Carson, Shelley Carson,

John Cecil, Leslee Cran, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Raymond Cummins, Julie Curry, Kathryn Deetz, Diane Dentlinger, James J. Dinsmore, Lena Dinsmore, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Karen Disbrow, Thomas Dougherty, Julia Dyche, Keith Dyche, Bery Engebretsen, Denise Ferreira, Karen Fieg, Carol Fisher, Pip Fisher, Barbara Fisher-Krueger, Brytta Fitzgibbons, Judy Fitzgibbons, Daila Floyd, Ted Floyd, Heather Franksain, Sheryl Galvez, Tim Garner, Janet Gebler, Tim Gedler, Ulrike Grimaldi, Suzanne Gucciardo, Tyler Harms, Douglas Harr, Joleen Henning, Paul Hertzel, Mary Hodak, Maridel Jackson, Kelly Jacobs, Ann Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Julie Johnston, Eli Kenyon, Karen Kinkead, Jeremy Klatt, Cathy Konrad, Sue Kooiker, Judith Levings, Randall Levings, Barbara MacDougall, Lynn Marsh, James McCoy, Poppy McGinnis Cecil, Michael Meetz, Floramay Miller, Stephen Miller, Francis Moore, Catherine Moratz, Robert Moratz, Kevin Murphy, Betsy Myers, Bob Myers, Carol Nash , Curt Nelson, Wolfgang Oesterreich, Eric Ollie, Keri Osterhaus, Kim Pagel, Sharon Pagel, Philip Plourde, Kevin Powers, Stephanie Powers, Mark Proescholdt, Toni Proescholdt, Linda Quinn, Ruth Rabinowitz, Dawn Reser, Paul Roisen, Maria Rundquist, Rex Rundquist, Heather Sanders, Richard Sayles, Tom Schilke, Dana Simon, Larry Sinnwell, Nancy Sinnwell, Stuart Sparkman, Maricela Stakland, Ron Stakland, Larry Stone, Margaret Stone, Maria Story, Howard Thielen, Robyn Thielen, Bill Thomas, Cecille Thompson, Dennis Thompson, Bill Tollefson, John Tollefson, Wendy VanDeWalle , Karen Viste-Sparkman, Robin Voster, Phil Walsh, Victor Webber, Gerald White, James A Wiese, Jean Wiese, Clayton Will, Hank Zaletel.

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Former IOU Presidents: Francis Moore, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Tom Johnson, James J. Dinsmore, Dennis Thompson, Mark Proescholdt, Paul Roisen

IBL Editors: Karen Viste-Sparkman, Chris Brochu, Stephen J. Dinsmore, James J. Dinsmore

Membership Meeting of Iowa Ornitholgists' Union 6 May 2023

Katie Byerly

The Spring Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Membership Business meeting was held at the Stone Barn in West Des Moines on May 6, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm by President Dennis Thompson.

President Thompson began the meeting by updating the members on upcoming changes in the board. Dennis Thompson and Richard Sayles have completed their terms as President and Vice President. Clayton Will and Betty Lucas have decided not to return for a second term. Tyler Harms and Kevin Murphy have offered to serve as President and Vice President. New board member volunteers include Eric Ollie and Diane Crookham-Johnson. Elections were held and all nominees were elected unanimously to service in the above-mentioned positions.

Treasure Tom Doughtery reported on the finances of IOU. Current membership income is $12,000 with the possible total coming to $17,000 by the end of the year. Currently the total income is at $34,000. IOU has changed investments which has resulted in an increase in interest rates and ultimately returns. Total expenses to date are $16,700. Expenses included publications, meetings, insurance liability and the Michigan birding trip. The birding trip will pay for itself and then some once payments are all received. Expenses also include the MOTUS tower donation. The gross profit is estimated at around $17,350 with a projected net income of -$4,650.

IOU has total assets of $145,000. IOU has been the beneficiary of generous memorial donations. Most recently a $10,000 memorial fund from Doug Hunt in memory of his wife, Mary Beth. These donations over the past 15-20 years leave the IOU with a $60,000 operating fund. Overall, the IOU will have a breakeven year and our finances are positive. The change to Ameritrade has been positive, in addition to the 20 more members than a year ago at this time. A two-year audit was completed and found satisfactory.

Anna Burkardt presented on Bird Friendly Iowa (BFI). Iowa currently has 11 Bird Friendly cities and 10 counties. IOU has donated $1,000 to Bird Friendly Iowa for upcoming training that focuses on increasing membership. IOU is already a partner with BFI. Anna taught the IOU members how Bird Friendly Iowa educates communities on bird conservation.

Paul Hertzel from the Records Committee reported on an upcoming change in the requirements for reporting a rarity or casual bird sighting. With the improvement in photo quality, confirming a rare sighting has become much easier. The Records Committee is also taking advantage of eBird recording of sightings. With these two improvements, the Records Committee is considering changing the requirements for confirming a rare sighting. Paul concluded that the committee will officially notify the IOU members when the review list requirements change.

Joel Haack, the Projects Committee Chair shared that the $5000 allocated from projects have been distributed and the recipients of the donations can be found on the IOU website. Chris Brochu was introduced as the new editor of *Iowa Bird Life*.

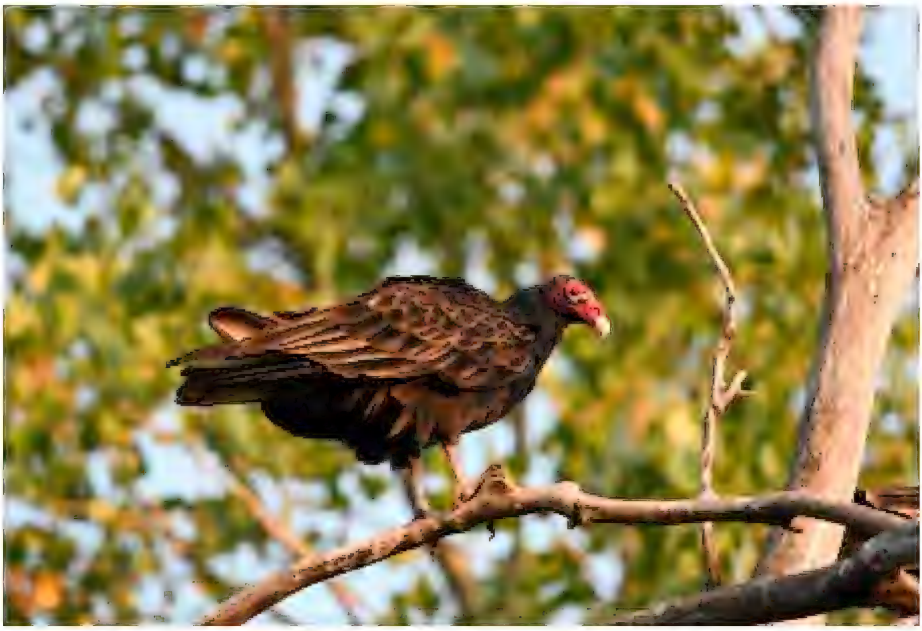
Ann Johnson encouraged the members to use the IOU website to find "birding hotspots." Ann also announced the need for volunteers for the membership and communication committees. IOU calling cards are available at the front desks for members to pick up and hand out to potential new members. Volunteers are also needed in the Muscatine area to man the IOU display at local nature related events.

Discussion was held regarding the *Birds of Iowa* checklist booklets. There are only 50 left and the checklist has not been updated since 2017. Rick Hollis has volunteered to update the list before more copies are published.

The 2023 Fall meeting will be held in Cedar Falls at the Hartman Nature Center. The Spring 2023 Membership meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Byerly, Secretary



Turkey Vulture, Meadow Lake, Adair, *18 August 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.*

Iowa Ornitholgists' Union
Spring 2023 Board Meeting

Katie Byerly

The Spring 2023 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Board of Directors meeting was held via ZOOM on 2 May 2023. Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 7pm. Members in attendance included President Dennis Thompson, Vice President Dick Sayles, Treasurer Tom Doughtery, Secretary Katie Byerly, Board members Wendy VanDeWalle, Clayton Will, Betty Lucas, Julie Johnson and Anna Burkardt.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tom Doughtery presented the current financial report. The current balance is $145,000. IOU has $95,000 of those funds invested in an Ameritrade account and is receiving a 4% return on those monies. Tom explained the income received for the June Warbler trip and that many of the expenses still need to be covered. The June Warbler trip added seven new IOU members. We have also received attendance payments for the Spring Meeting. There are currently 115 attendees signed up and 24 of those are first time attendees! Total membership is up 19 members than usual. Tom projects a possible net gain of $1,000 at the end of the year or at least break even.

New Business

Board member Wendy VanDeWalle shared with the board members about Wildcat Bluff Park in Benton County. Wendy described this park as a birding hotspot, and the county has the opportunity to double the size of the park by purchasing another 150 acres along the Cedar River. Benton County is working with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to raise 1.2 million dollars for this purchase. Wendy proposed that the IOU donate $5,000 towards this project. The motion was seconded by Anna Burkardt. Board members had many questions and thoughts about not only this motion but also on how the IOU should donate its money. Outgoing board members suggested tabling the motion and allowing the new board members to vote on it or to bring the suggestion to the IOU members. Other board members were concerned that waiting would not be in the best interest in the purchasing of the land and that this is the best request for donations the IOU has received in years. The treasurer suggested IOU develop a plan or policy outlining how the funds will be allocated. After much discussion, Anna revised the motion that IOU donate $5000 towards the purchase of the land near the Wildcat Bluff Park and suggested that the new board work on an agenda for money disbursement. The motion was passed by a majority vote.

Board member Anna Burkardt shared with the board about progress in the Bird Friendly Iowa program. The program has employee training in May for a new website being installed. Anna is requesting a $1000 donation

toward Bird Friendly Iowa's new training, and she volunteered to present Bird Friendly Iowa information at the Spring Membership Meeting. Julie Johnson motioned that IOU donate the $1000 as requested. Clayton Will seconded. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Tom Doughtery and Dennis Thompson notified the board that IOU has received a $10,000 donation from Doug Hunt in memory of his late wife, Mary Beth Hunt. Mr. Hunt has requested that the donation be used to promote birding amongst those under the age of 18. Tyler Harms with the Iowa Young Birders is willing to help with this donation request. The monies will be allocated to the Iowa Young Birders. Every year, they will receive $2,000 for the next 5 years to be used to promote birding in the youth of Iowa.

Final plans are being completed for the spring membership meeting. Julie Johnson volunteered to take pictures of the event including a picture of all past IOU presidents. Guest speaker Ted Floyd has been interviewed by WHO Radio regarding the spring meeting.

The Spring Board Members meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with Anna moving for an adjournment and Wendy seconding. All members concurred.

Northern Pintail, Swan Lake SP, Carroll*, 8 November 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The March 1973 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* starts with compiler Jim Rod's summary of the 1972-73 Christmas bird count. The 24 counts found 108 species; both totals were slightly fewer than the previous year. Davenport had the most species (81) with Clinton (64) and Muscatine (60) the next most. Only a single individual was found for thirteen species including Great Blue Heron, Glaucous Gull, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Other interesting species totals were only 52 Canada Geese but 265 Northern Bobwhite (on 14 counts). Notable finds were 75 Evening Grosbeaks, 3 Pine Grosbeaks, and 2 Pinyon Jays (!) at Shenandoah.

The other main article was a summary of bird banding in Iowa in 1972. Fifteen banding stations reported banding 24,423 birds of 178 species. The greatest totals were from the Iowa Conservation Commission (6,785 individuals), Charles and Darleen Ayres (5,402), and Keith and Irene Layton (3,694). The species with the greatest totals were Mourning Dove (3,313), American Goldfinch (2,013), and Dark-eyed Junco (1,215). The 18 species with only a single individual banded included Sanderling, Black Tern, Clark's Nutcracker, Bewick's Wren, Hooded Warbler, and Le Conte's Sparrow. A question for readers is how were they able to capture and band some of those species?

Other articles were on birding areas in south-central Iowa and a summary of Iowa reports of Glossy (White-faced) Ibis, Red Knot, American Avocet, and Chuck-will's-widow. Among shorter articles and notes, three are of special interest. One described Iowa's first, and to this date, only report of Pinyon Jay. Two others described a Clark's Nutcracker at Ottumwa and another in Pleasantville, Iowa's first since 1919.

Some birders apparently heeded Field Reports editor Woodward Brown's warning in the previous issue asking for more material. The 1972-73 winter summary had many reports including a third Clark's Nutcracker seen at Chariton, the presence this winter of few Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills, numerous reports of Evening Grosbeaks, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Des Moines in December. A reminder of the upcoming spring meeting and several book reviews filled out the issue.

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Editor's note - this installment of Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life* was intended for the previous issue, which was the first of the current volume (93-1). Somehow, the installment intended for this issue (93-2) was published in 93-1 instead. We are therefore publishing the installment intended for 93-1 here. We regret the error.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly)**:**
Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Will Bates, 215 NE 19th Ct, Ankeny, IA 50021 (w_rbates@icloud.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:
Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at IBL@iowabirds.org. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:
Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at lgdau9@gmail.com. Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for the fall season, 1 April for the winter season, 1 July for the spring season, 1 October for the summer season.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and email changes to Membership Coordinator Will Bates, 215 NE 19th Ct, Ankeny, IA 50021 (w_rbates@icloud.com)

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Tundra Bean Goose, Lake LaShane, *Decatur,* 11 December 2022. Photograph by Dean Hester, North English, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Indigo Bunting, Red Rock Reservoir, *Marion,* 1 August 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

LAYOUT: Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.

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